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THE INDEPENDENT

3,075

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 1996

40P (IRASPI)

Planes

Cancer fear for airline crews

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Growing fears that airline pilots and cabin crew face an increased risk of cancer from exposure to cosmic radiation has prompted a new European directive requiring airlines to monitor and limit the doses their employees receive.

Preliminary studies suggest that air hostesses are almost twice as likely to suffer breast cancer and 15 times more likely to have bone cancer than women in the general population. Pilots appear to have the highest leukaemia risk of any occupation, and are more likely to develop melanoma and cancers of the lower gut, according to a study in the journal *Aviation Space and Environmental Medicine*.

The studies involved small numbers of people, and researchers have stressed that more research is needed to substantiate or refute the findings. But they also raise questions over the type of radiation the crew are exposed to, and whether this has been taken into account when calculating risk.

Airlines have repeatedly played down the dangers of cosmic radiation exposure to avoid alarming crew and passengers who fly regularly, although a large American survey is underway to establish if there is any risk to frequent flyers.

The airlines have failed to reassure some pilots, including British pilots, who now carry personal radiation monitors on the flight deck. The British Airline Pilots Association is funding a study by scientists at Bremen University to assess chromosome damage to Concorde crew who, because they fly at higher altitudes (about 59,000ft), are exposed to the highest levels of radiation.

Balpa plans a second study for pilots on subsonic flights flying regularly at 39,000ft, and is recruiting volunteers to carry monitors with them when they fly. Carolyn Evans, technical secretary for Balpa, said: "It is something we are greatly concerned about. We are fortunate in that excellent data exists for Concorde crews because it was required by law to carry monitoring equipment."

The EC directive, which comes into effect in May 2000, runs contrary to the airline industry's repeated dismissal of the dangers of cosmic radiation exposure, and their attempts to discredit any research which indicates otherwise.

A decision to include air crew in the directive, which lays down safety standards for the protection of workers and the general public from radiation, follows a study by Finnish scientists published in the *British Medical Journal* last year. This study, the first of its kind, assessed the cancer risk of all cabin crew who had ever worked on Finnish airlines and

who had not died before 1 January 1967 - a total of 187 men and 1577 women.

Dr Eero Pukkala of the Finnish Cancer Registry, and Anssi Auvinen of the Finnish Centre for Radiation Nuclear Safety, found "significantly raised risks" of breast and bone cancer in air hostesses. A second study by the Danish Cancer Society found an excess of breast and bone cancers and leukaemias among cockpit and cabin crew.

A study for the German Cockpit Association found that pilots were up to 10 times more likely to have chromosome abnormalities than the general population, although the significance of the abnormalities is not known.

Cosmic radiation originates in outer-space and radioactive particles are drawn towards the North and South Poles by magnetic forces. Airline crews are chronically exposed to cosmic radiation, mainly from neutrons and gamma rays. The mean annual dose is estimated at between 1000-3000 microSieverts (a unit of radiation) per year but this varies according to flight altitude - the dose doubles every 4,920ft - latitude, and solar activity.

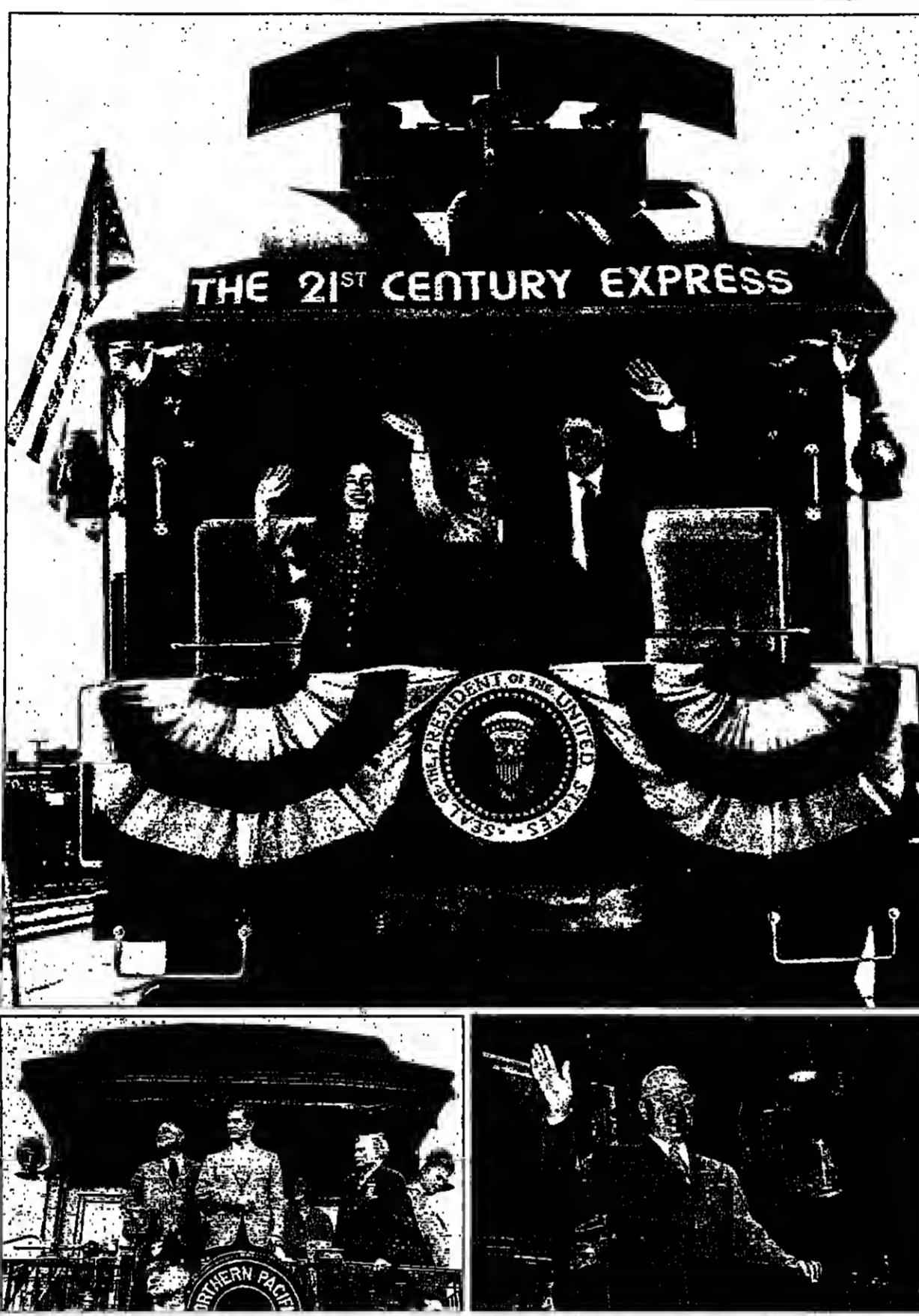
According to the National Radiological Protection Board which is responsible for the safety of aircrew, the limit of exposure is 6000 microSv in any one year. The average radiation dose experienced by crew flying at 39,000ft is 5 microSv per hour, and 10 microSv for personal flights.

Dr Chris Sharp, head of the Medical Department at the NRPB, said that even on the "worst case" radiation exposure, the London to Tokyo route, crews will accumulate 5400 microSv well below the NRPB recommendation. Exposure on the ground of the general population is about 2200 microSv per year, and an X-ray delivers a dose of 20 microSv.

Dr Michael Bagshaw, head of Aviation Medical Services at British Airways, said that the risks to crew posed by cosmic radiation was minimal, and that a study of pilots flying between 1966-1989 showed that they had seven more years life expectancy than a similar population of non-fliers. He said 21 years of data from Concorde flights did not show any increased risk of cancer.

There have been commercial flights for more than 50 years and no evidence of an excess of cancers. The international limits for occupational [radiation] exposure is 20,000microSv per year or 100,000microSv in five years with up to 50,000 in anyone year. Crew are well within that. We would be foolish to say there is no risk but we are confident that it is minimal," Dr Bagshaw said.

Additional research Amelie Hill



Campaign trail: The Clinton family preparing to leave Huntington, West Virginia, for their tour. Left, Roosevelt with his son Franklin at Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1936; right, Harry Truman in Washington DC in 1948. Main photograph: Reuters

Trains

Clinton on the voters' track

DAVID USBORNE
Aboard the Presidential train

Any form of transport is at the disposal of candidates running for the White House, but if it is romance, patriotic imagery and old-fashioned populism that you are after, nothing can beat the iron horse.

This trip has been scripted by Harry Thomason and Mort Engelberg, the same pair of Hollywood producers who conjured up Bill Clinton's and Al Gore's smash-hit bus tour through the Midwest after the Democratic Convention in New York four years ago.

The front two-thirds of the train comprise the most modern rolling stock America can muster. The rear of the train boasts two polished and majestic period carriages. These are the cars that provided the backdrop for the whistlestop campaigns that Thomason and Engelberg are so keen to evoke. For candidates in the last century, the train provided a vital means of making contacts with the voters.

Abraham Lincoln toured the country by rail in 1860 on trains more basic than this. President Roosevelt had a car personally built for his peregrinations around the country. Most famous of all, however, are the monochrome images of Harry Truman travelling some 30,000 miles by train during his come-from-behind campaign against Thomas Dewey in 1948.

Mr Clinton's accommodation on this trip is the Georgia 300, used by President Roosevelt for his visits from Washington to his favourite retreat, Warm Springs, Georgia. Most importantly, it has that small platform at the back, adorned with patriotic bunting, upon which the President can stand as the train pulls out of its every stop. And just so that no one misses the point, the slogan of the journey is a groan-inducing pun: this President has put America on the right track.

Clinton's bandwagon, page 6

& automobiles

Jams begin as rain stops play

MATTHEW BRACE

Thousands of motorists and their families deserted the beaches and set off home early last night as the cooler, wet weather over the Bank Holiday weekend made for a more peaceful time on the roads.

As the traffic queues began to grow yesterday evening, a spokesman for AA Roadwatch said showers across the country and the lack of August heat had helped keep holidaymakers re-

laxed. "We've had quite a quiet weekend compared to what it's usually like. What we haven't had is the ... sunshine which often brings out the boy racer in people," he said.

AA Roadwatch was gearing up to cope with the slow crawl home from seaside resorts. Despite many roadworks being cancelled for the holiday period, delays were expected.

Many people left early because of the autumnal weather, meaning the post-Bank Holiday

rush started sooner than normal. By 6pm the worst-hit area was the North East, with delays growing on the A1/M.

Showers washed most of the country yesterday and were expected to linger into the night in western regions where hill fog and mist were also likely.

But the changeable weather did not dampen spirits at London's biggest street party of the year - the Notting Hill Carnival. As many as 1.5 million people were expected to attend

the three-day event. Once again, the carnival passed off safely with only a handful of arrests for minor offences.

At the height of the carnival yesterday a Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "We believe there are about 400,000 people here ... but we are expecting more. The mood is very positive and we are pleased with the way things are going," he said.

Nearly 7,000 police officers were on duty over the weekend to police the event.

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QUICKLY

Men in danger

Men behave not only badly but dangerously, and the only things that can save them from an early death are women, according to a new report. Page 5

Patients at risk

Government attempts to cut NHS bureaucracy will put the care of patients with complex conditions at risk, Britain's top specialist hospitals have warned. Page 4

Research fund threat The Cancer Research Campaign is threatening to withdraw funding from Cambridge University scientists in protest at the university's decision to take £1.6m from British American Tobacco. Page 6

Nazi secret

The three German officials who tried and failed to track down and prosecute the war criminal Erich Priebke had been Nazis themselves, it has been revealed. Page 6

Taxpayers foot £500,000 clothes bill for royal visits

ANTHONY BEVINS

Political Editor

An *Independent* analysis of royal trips over the last four years shows that clothing bills could account for as much as one-fifth of the £2.5 million cost to the taxpayer of official visits - a bill of around £500,000 picked up by the Foreign Office.

It is not uncommon for royal parties to spend more than £4,000 on clothing for an official trip, regardless of the distance and time spent abroad.

Labour MPs last night called for limits to be imposed on royal clothing bills paid for by the taxpayer.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, told Labour MP Tony Banks earlier this month that

when Princess Alexandra went to the United States on a four-day visit in October-November 1993, the clothing bill "for the whole party" came to £4,950 - out of a total bill for items including travel, gifts, salaries, post and other charges of £24,800.

The Princess's official engagements "included a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a reception and dinner hosted by the American Associates of the Royal Academy, and a visit to the British American Chamber of Commerce," Mr Rifkind said.

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2 news

Cambridge may lose charity cash

Cancer group threatens to withdraw research millions over funding from tobacco company, reports Nicholas Timmins

The Cancer Research Campaign, a leading medical charity, is threatening to withdraw funding from Cambridge University scientist in protest at the university's decision to take £1.6m from British American Tobacco to found a chair in international relations.

The charity spends £2.5m a year on research at the university. All existing contracts will be honoured, but the CRC's council is to meet next month and debate whether further work should be funded there.

The move would mark a further escalation in the war between doctors, medical sci-

entists and the tobacco companies at a time when they are under pressure in the United States from President Clinton's decision to declare cigarettes a drug under the Food and Drugs legislation. It also follows protests over the weekend at last year's decision by a Medical Research Council unit to accept cash from BAT towards a research project on nicotine.

As a result of those protests, the MRC's council will

re-consider the guidelines under which its units are encouraged to seek outside cash to support their work.

The Cancer Research Campaign's move, which could cost Cambridge more in lost funding than it has gained from BAT's endowment, follows bitter division at the university over whether to take the cash. The money was only accepted after a ballot of Cambridge's 3,300 dons last month, who voted by

two to one to take it.

The BAT endowment was opposed at the time by Sir Kenneth Peters, the university's Professor of Physics and its most senior medical academic, who is also a member of the CRC's council. He said then: "Tobacco is a major health problem in all countries and control of cigarette smoking is the single most powerful opportunity for preventive medicine in the developed world." Professor Gor-

don McVie, the CRC's director general, said at the time that he was "slightly pleased" that Cambridge had taken the money. Sir Walter Bodmer, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, called the decision to accept it "quite appalling".

Susan Osborne, the CRC's director of communications, said the issue had reached such a pitch that the charity had decided to hold a special council meeting next month to debate

the issue and decide what action, if any, it should take.

It was not yet clear, she said, what decision would be made, but deciding not to fund work in Cambridge in future, was "one option" to be debated.

With 100,000 premature deaths a year caused by smoking, tobacco funding "has to be a major issue to consider for an organisation like ours". She said: "We raise over £50m a year and we have to consider the feelings of our supporters, many of whom are smokers because they have had cancer in the family, much of it due to tobacco-related damage."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A ferry caught fire and 111 people were evacuated from it off the Channel Islands yesterday afternoon. Guernsey Police said: "The fire broke out in the port-side engine room of the *Trident Seven* catamaran carrying mostly British and French day trippers minutes after it left St Peter Port in Guernsey bound for Jersey, and passengers were taken off in a rescue operation helped by private and commercial craft. The only person injured was an 88-year-old French woman who was taken to Princess Elizabeth Hospital in St Peter Port with a suspected leg injury and broken arm. The ship was last night towed back into harbour with a firefighting crew on board."

Free school meals for the poorest children could be replaced with sandwiches, crisps or chips under government plans which will break up the meals service in many areas, local authorities have warned. Proposals to remove meals from the part of the budget held by local authorities will force schools to choose between sacking teachers and providing decent lunches for children from families on income support, they say. The law says free meals must be given to these children, but does not specify what they should consist of. This week Local Schools Information, a company funded by the local authorities, will publish a report attacking the plans. *Frances Abrams*

Mary Robinson criticised Royal Ulster Constabulary members who were involved in sectarian and aggressive behaviour during the recent Drumcree confrontation. Speaking at a summer school at the Glencree Reconciliation Centre in Co Wicklow yesterday the President of Ireland said unlawful actions were always serious but much more so "when committed by those in uniform". She emphasised that she was not suggesting this applied to the majority of members of the security forces. *Alan Murdoch*

Proposals to secure the future of the Cairngorms in the Scottish Highlands, one of Britain's most important areas of nature conservation, were launched yesterday. The draft management strategy of the Cairngorms Partnership includes projects such as the formation of new forests on Deeside to generate new industries, improve recreational opportunities and boost visitor numbers. The strategy will be the subject of extensive public consultation.

Ireland's 1,200 Jews are to get a new Chief Rabbi after three years without one. They will be led by Gavin Broder, who has been rabbi at Newbury Park synagogue in east London for the past six years. The previous Chief Rabbi was Ephraim Mirvis. After he retired his chosen successor decided to take up an alternative post.

Two people were killed when a light aircraft crashed yesterday. The victims, both men in their mid-thirties, died instantly when their Rallye aircraft came down in a field behind Barton aerodrome, Salford, Greater Manchester. Airfield director Eric Whitworth said the pilot had taken off two hours before the field was officially open at 9am, at a time when no fire or air traffic control cover was provided, without permission for the early flight. The cause of the crash was being investigated. The incident was the second in a few weeks at Barton where last month a Second World War mosquito fighter bomber crashed during an air show killing the pilot and navigator.

Apology: A photograph in yesterday's issue, illustrating an item about Laurence Marks, the television writer, was in fact of Laurence Marks, the journalist and profile writer who recently died. We offer our sincere apologies to the family of the late Laurence Marks for this error.

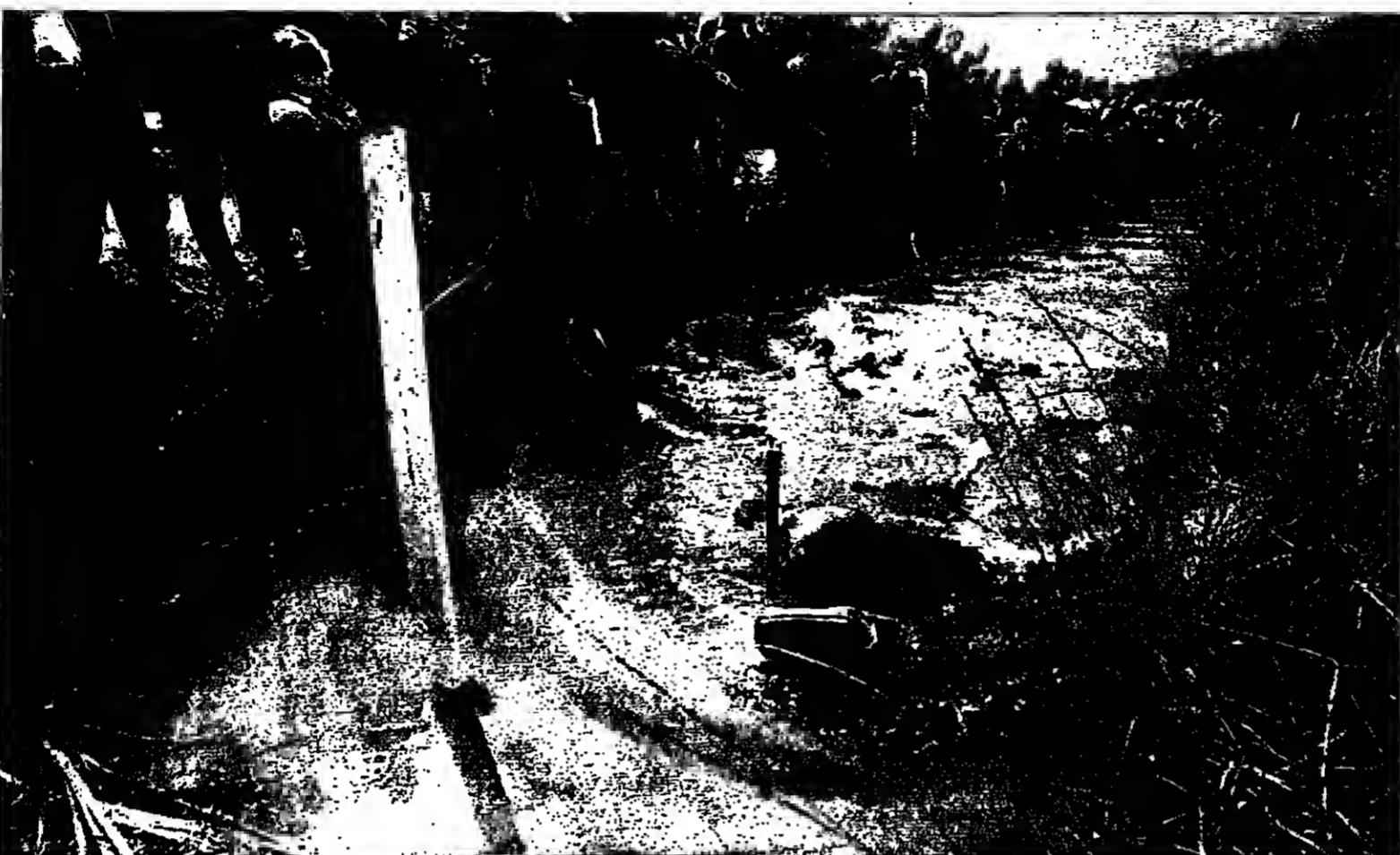
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Richard Tilt: No resignation

Heads down as snorkellers attempt to set the bog standard



Lecturer Steve Mitchell completes his challenge at the 11th World Bog Snorkelling Championship in Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, yesterday. The prize for swimming two 60-metre lengths non-stop, keeping the arms under water, was £40. Photograph: Rob Stratton

Writ will settle jail release row

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

A rare writ of habeas corpus, challenging the authority of the Home Secretary to detain prisoners who were to have been early, is expected to resolve the dispute by the end of next week.

Michael Howard and the prime minister Ann Widdecombe will meet Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, at the Home Office this morning for a preliminary examination of the time-bomb Mr Tilt left behind when he left for a holiday in Italy last Wednesday.

One Home Office source told *The Independent* last night that Mr Tilt had not even mentioned the "early release" issue when he delivered his end-of-term report to the Home Office.

It was dealt with, almost as an aside, in a three- or four-page document, and according to one official who has seen the file, it was not even mentioned on the first page.

That could explain why it was not spotted by Mr Howard when it went to him in his daily box of official papers last Thursday and why he was caught unaware when approached by journalists after the first of 80 prisoners were freed. Miss Widdecombe was on

holiday, so the report was left on her desk to await her return. That suggests that Home Office officials were not vetting the papers of either the Home Secretary or the prison minister.

Of more immediate concern to ministers, however, could be the complete breakdown of the political "adviser" that had been placed within the Prison Service.

A monitoring unit of Home Office officials led by a senior, Grade 3, official, had been placed within its headquarters because of previous breakdowns in communications, with the specific task of spotting political problems on the horizon and alerting the Home Secretary.

The 52-year-old Director-General, who has said he sees no reason to resign from his £90,000-a-year post, is known as a man who delegates as much as he can, unlike his predecessor, and the latest crisis is seen as a product of that approach.

The new guidelines on calculating release dates were drawn up by a Prison Service working party, with advice from Home Office lawyers, after a series of court cases last year.

The working party found that the 1967 Criminal Justice Act, which allows time spent in custody on remand before sentence to be subtracted from a jail term, had been incorrectly interpreted for almost 30 years.

It decided that the Act allowed the remand period to be taken into account in each of a series of consecutive sentences, rather than being simply subtracted from the total time served. It was estimated that 500 prisoners could expect to be freed immediately and that a further 4,000 would have the time they served reduced.

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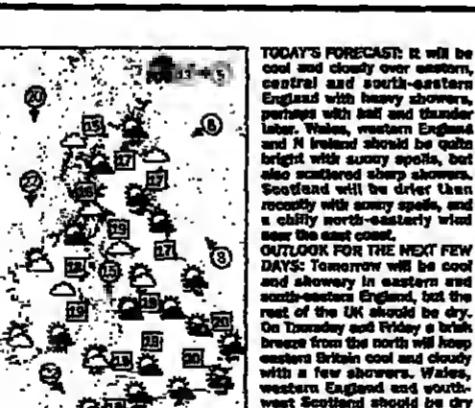
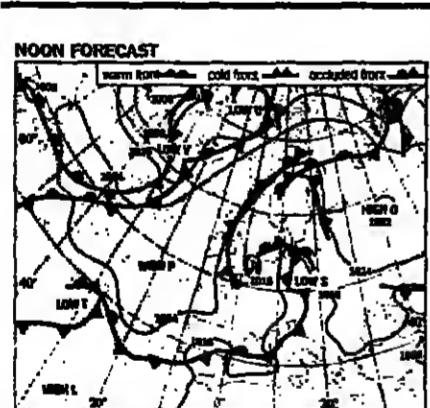
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Weather forecast



Low S will move north-southwards, decaying and absorbing the remnants of Low E. High E is now slow-moving.

WORLD WEATHER

London ... 15.24 °C

Paris ... 15.41 °C

Madrid ... 15.42 °C

Barcelona ... 15.43 °C

Amsterdam ... 15.44 °C

Brussels ... 15.45 °C

Stockholm ... 15.46 °C

Oslo ... 15.47 °C

Edinburgh ... 15.48 °C

Glasgow ... 15.49 °C

Cardiff ... 15.50 °C

Belfast ... 15.51 °C

London ... 15.52 °C

Paris ... 15.53 °C

Madrid ... 15.54 °C

Barcelona ... 15.55 °C

Amsterdam ... 15.56 °C

Brussels ... 15.57 °C

Stockholm ... 15.58 °C

Oslo ... 15.59 °C

Edinburgh ... 15.60 °C

Glasgow ... 15

SHORTS

Dressing the House of Windsor: Princes and princesses must travel the world, but someone has to pick up the clothes bill

The Royal cost of keeping up appearances

REBECCA FOWLER

It is not easy keeping up appearances for the Windsors. But the Royal Family's latest clothes bills for foreign travel, from the well-cut safari suit to the most spangled evening dress, all land on the desks of Whitehall civil servants to be settled.

Some of the royals are such dedicated followers of fashion that the strain is already showing on the most recent recruit to the family. Prince Edward's partner Sophie Rhys-Jones told her friends recently she simply could not compete on £300 a week as a humble former PR consultant. As the bills trickle through for trips including those to the Caribbean, Hong Kong, Mexico and San Francisco, it is hardly a surprise. Princess Margaret alone took £7,200 worth of gear for her and her entourage on a trip to the United States last summer.

Even the royal men are not shy of shelling out on dapper outfits for royal tours. Prince Philip spent £1,800 on clothes for a trip to the Caribbean, and Prince Charles's tailors put in a bill for £6,400 for his trip to Los Angeles and Hong Kong. The most modest buyer was the Duke of Kent who spent just £300 for a two-day trip to Singapore in September.

Sartorial style does not come cheap in the House of Windsor

Date	Duration	Royal	Location	Clothing
March 93	5 days	Diana	Nepal	£4,800
March 93	20 days	Philip	Canada	£1,800
Sept 93	3 days	Edward	Swaziland	£2,200
Oct/Nov 93	4 days	Alexandra	US	£4,950
Dec 93	4 days	Duchess of Kent	Seychelles	£4,300
Oct 94	14 days	Alexander	Hk & India	£7,000
Oct 94	13 days	Georgius	Hk, Sing & Japan	£5,000
Oct/Nov 94	11 days	Charles	UK & HK	£6,400
Nov/Dec 94	8 days	Kent	HK	£7,400
June 95	1 week	Margaret	San Francisco	£7,200
Sept 95	3 days	Duke of Kent	Singapore	£3,000
Nov 95	7 days	Gloucester	Mexico	£3,000

But what is a full-blown royal to do on such a trip? According to the shopping list for travel clothes, climatic changes, evening gowns and state events do not come cheap, and the royal wardrobe is high-maintenance. As with all royal tours, Buckingham Palace send all the couriers' bills to the Foreign Office for payment.

The front-runner in the royal glamour stakes is Princess Margaret, who has made a recent concession by wearing hand-me-downs from her sister. She is famous for her taste in spangled dresses, white Minnie Mouse shoes from Rayne, designers who include Anouska Hempel and Caroline Charles, and attention to detail. She once said: "I always have to be practical ... Sleeves mustn't be too tight either, they must be all right for waving."

Even the lesser royals are determined to keep up appearances. The Duchess of Kent, who favours Giorgio Armani, has spent around £11,000 on tour clothes in the past three years.

Prince Edward forked out £2,200 of Foreign Office money on a trip to Swaziland. He was a customer at Airey and Wheeler, the gentlemen's outfitter in Piccadilly famous for its safari suits, and which ran up lightweight suits for Sir Winston Churchill when he visited Aristotle Onassis's yacht in the 1960s.

Earlier this summer, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, attempted to defend the wardrobe bills. He said: "High-profile and worthy representation of Britain abroad inevitably involves additional expenditure on clothes by members of the Royal Family."

One welcome cutback has been Princess Diana's removal from the list of royals claiming for new frocks and suits from the Foreign Office, since the royal divorce was set in motion.

She set new standards a decade ago for reportedly ordering £80,000 of outfits for a 16-day tour to the Middle East, softening the blow by selecting British designers, including Catherine Walker and the Emanuels.

But the most notable absentee from the wardrobe expenses file is the Princess Royal, famous for gamely reusing outfit she ordered up to 20 years ago. At the D-day commemoration service in Amiens she wore a coat she first wore to visit Canada in 1974.

John Boyd, her milliner of 27 years, said afterwards: "She keeps all the hats I've made her in perfect condition ... They're all put away beautifully and come out years later, like new."



Royal ambassadors: (Clockwise from left) Princess Diana in Nepal, 1993; Princess Margaret, renounced for her spangled frocks, on her way to San Francisco, 1995; Prince Charles in Los Angeles, 1994; and Prince Edward on a trip to Swaziland in 1993 which cost Whitehall £2,200 in clothes bills

Prostitute video set to fuel controversy

MICHAEL STREETER

A new video called *Hookers* is likely to add fresh controversy to the row about the making of films using "real-life" footage from surveillance and closed-circuit cameras.

Due out in two weeks, it is thought to feature scenes of prostitutes working in the street and also in hotel rooms captured on hidden cameras.

The makers, EduVision, last night declined to reveal more details about the film, how it was made or where the footage was gathered.

But it is likely to contain an explosive mixture of sex and surveillance. *Hookers* was predict-

ed by the industry to raise new questions about intrusion, privacy and copyright following the Government's attempt to ban a video featuring operations.

One industry source told *The Independent*: "We think *Hookers* is going to cause another row, not just over its content but about how it was made."

The controversy over *Everyday Operations* continued yesterday with its producers claiming it was medics who first proposed making the film.

David Donaghue, of the video's makers, ICM Video, said he was contacted "originally by an award-winning medical training video organisation run by medically qualified people."

Leading article, page 9

Viewers cannot get enough of real life

Michael Streeter
on the blurring of
information with
entertainment

More controversial was the *Caught in the Act* video, which contained villains being caught committing crimes with closed-circuit television footage of sexual acts. Yet another video, *Road Rage*, is due out soon.

The spin-off into television is clear. *Police, Action, Camera!* can trace its parentage to the *Police Stop!* video. It was used by the ITV network to go head-to-head with *EastEnders* during the Olympics, and though beaten into second place it still attracted a healthy 9.1m viewers with its spy-in-the-eye view of police car chases.

For the television viewer who can get all the violence and thrills they want from films and television dramas, what is the added attraction of real-life productions which often suffer from relatively poor quality?

James Hunt, of David Donoghue Associates, behind *Everyday Operations*, believes the popularity has been partly

inflated as a result of politicians' anger at trying to ban them.

But he admits there are other reasons. "People prefer to see reality on TV, because it's the next best thing to reality. And what is wrong with reality?"

He also maintains that many serve an educational purpose. "If anyone gets entertainment from watching executions then I feel sorry for them," he said.

Barrie Goulding, whose company EduVision helped produce *Caught in the Act*, admits there is a strong element of voyeurism.

"I think you can trace this back to *Candid Camera*. The general public does not want to see people come to harm. But witnessing someone in a real situation from afar is fascinating."

Victor Perkins, lecturer in the Film and Literature Department at the University of Warwick, believes there is a problem of "confusion of purpose" over what is information and what is entertainment.

But he accepts there is natural curiosity in people wanting to see real-life dramas, as viewers test themselves over how they would react. "Wanting to see how people behave in extremes is not necessarily deplorable."

Deal puts REM in record books

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

The health minister Gerry Malone warned that he would take a "very serious view" of any breach of patient confidentiality by the NHS in the making of the video. He said he was determined to ensure that the guidelines on confidentiality were properly adhered to.

A full hearing is expected later this week but Mr Donaghue said the ban would be fought.

Leading article, page 9

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They smoke too much and drink too much. Men really are behaving badly – and only women can save them

Gender gap: New research looks at how the different ways the sexes think and act affect their health

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Men behave not only badly but dangerously and so far we do not really know why, according to a report from the Royal College of Nursing today.

Living with a female partner improves a man's health, the study by the college's Men's Health Forum says, while widowed, divorced and separated men are more likely to smoke or drink excessively – no data are available for homosexual couples.

Men are less likely to visit their GP, and those who do tend to do so less often than women. Yet in-patient stays in hospital and out-patient attendances are higher for men in most age groupings, probably in part because they put off seeking medical advice for longer. Also, possibly for the same reason, they die younger than women.

The forum, which links 40 organisations ranging from the British Medical Association to charities, medical and mental health groups and the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress, said that most research has focused on biological differences between men and women. But men's beliefs, behaviours and attitudes – as both consumers and providers of health care – may be at least as important.

Men tend to see their bodies as machines, focusing on being fit, strong, energetic, physically active and in control. Women are more focused on avoiding ill health, and put greater stress on diet and rest than on exercise.

The heightened risks of being male

- Men die younger than women.
- Suicide is four times as common in men as in women.
- Men under 65 have three and a half times the likelihood of coronary heart disease than women.
- Men are more likely to smoke, drink too much and be overweight.
- In childhood, males have higher rates of attention deficit, hyperactivity and conduct disorders.
- Accidents account for 42 per cent of all deaths among 15- to 24-year-old men, and 17 per cent in those aged up to 44.
- Almost one-third of premature deaths in men under 65 are caused by cancer, with lung and prostate cancers the most common cause.
- Testicular cancer has doubled since the early Seventies with 1,200 new cases in 1992, although fatalities are decreasing.



Face of excess: The television character Rab C Nesbitt



Home truths: BBC1 shows Neil Morrissey and Martin Clunes as Men Behaving Badly, with a lifestyle not designed to appeal to the fastidious

... and they're ill-equipped for work

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The growing image of men as feckless, inarticulate and unemployed receives robust confirmation in other reports today.

Men are seen to be more impulsive than women, less organised and experience greater difficulty in reading.

Women are better qualified than men, who have a "mental block" over training, and the gap is likely to widen, according to vocational education specialists.

The depressing and increasingly familiar profile of the useless male emerges in reports by the North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council. They show that twice as many men as women are enrolling for vocational courses at

colleges in the area – a trend which the council believes reflects the national situation.

Commenting on the findings, Peter Stratton, a psychologist at Leeds University, argued that men were falling behind because of their general approach to life.

"Research shows that women are more likely to plan ahead and prepare for what they want to do," he said.

"Men are more impulsive, looking for activities that provide high levels of sensation, taking risks and taking things as they come rather than planning. Men are therefore less likely to start on something which offers long-term satisfaction. They are less likely to book in advance for courses, so they may well be finding the courses they want

to do are fully booked."

Dr Stratton said that college enrolments might also be affected by the different experiences men and women have at school. "Boys are more likely to have had trouble academically, especially with reading, and generally find school more uncomfortable than girls," he said.

"As adults they are more likely to find it difficult to read things they don't find immediately interesting."

"Men may well therefore be put off by the demands of reading in adult courses – and also by the needs of communication. Women are more verbally fluent. Eight times as many men as women suffer from stammering."

Lucy Adams of North Yorkshire TEC pointed out that men traditionally received

much of their training at work, but as male-dominated industries decline men have to start organising themselves to learn new skills.

Sandra Furby,

of Future Prospects,

a training organisation,

who helped to retrain

men after the closure of

the ABB carriageworks in York last

May with the loss of 700 jobs,

said that many males seemed to have a "mental block" when it came to training.

She added however that

while the men had not been

keen to get involved at first,

once they were persuaded, their

response was "wonderful".

Ms Adams said that moti-

vating men to go on courses was a major challenge for society.

The TEC would devote in-

creasing resources to see if

courses could be made more

Tests show children years behind at 11

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Gillian Shephard criticised gains in achievement by 11-year-olds as "unacceptable" yesterday after a study suggested that some children were four years behind the expected level.

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment said that evidence compiled by a government adviser vindicated her decision to publish league tables based on this year's tests for the age group. "Wide variations in achievement between schools and education authorities are unacceptable," she said.

Mrs Shephard said that underachievement by large numbers of 11-year-olds was not caused by a lack of resources. "It costs as much to teach a good lesson as a bad one. If many education authorities can achieve good results, they all can," she said.

Her comments followed an analysis of last year's test results by Dr John Marks, a right-wing member of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. His study, published yesterday by the Social Market Foundation, found that the average 11-year-old was two years behind the expected level in maths and 18 months behind in English.

The best 3,000 schools were more than a year ahead of the worst 3,000 in English and more than 18 months ahead in maths. Within each local authority area, there was an average gap between the best and worst schools of almost four years in English and five and a half in maths.

Dr Marks analysed data from the Department for Education and Employment of the test re-

sults of 500,000 11-year-olds in spring 1995. Evaluations of the tests published earlier this year had already suggested that pupils were not achieving as well as they should be at 11, and the chief inspector of schools had echoed this in his 1995 annual report.

However, Dr Marks has also compared the performances of girls with those of boys, and worked out which local authorities are achieving the highest and lowest scores. He found that in maths, 16 per cent of girls and 19 per cent of boys had failed to reach the level expected of the average seven-year-old.

Analysis of the pupils' results reveal a shocking degree of underachievement'

year-old. In English, 9 per cent of girls and 15 per cent of boys had only achieved that standard. Comparing different authorities, Dr Marks found that 77 out of 107 areas had at least one school where the average 11-year-old only reached the level of a 7-year-old in maths. Those with the highest scores were mainly the more prosperous, including Richmond, Kensington and Chelsea and Kingston-upon-Thames, all in London. Those with the lowest included the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Barking and Dagenham, and Birmingham, Manchester and Bradford.

He said the findings showed a "shocking" degree of underachievement. "There should be

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6 international

Hillary sets the Clinton bandwagon rolling

RUPERT CORNWELL
Chicago

This week Hillary Clinton comes back. Back home to Chicago, where today's Democratic First Lady grew up as a teenage organiser for Barry Goldwater in the rich and staunchly Republican suburb of Park Ridge. And after more than a year in Washington's political equivalent of purdah, back into the eye.

Yesterday, gay and confident, Mrs Clinton was all over Chicago, addressing a women's caucus and a panel on child

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS '96

care, visiting a poor Hispanic district and opening a park, attending fund-raising events for female Democratic candidates and giving scores of interviews. Tonight she addresses the convention in prime time, sealing her husband just as hard as Elizabeth Dole sold Bob Dole in her tour de force in San Diego.

For months, the standard

wisdom has been that Mrs Clinton's endless embroilment in the Whitewater controversy, and her leading role in the disastrous attempt in 1994 to reform healthcare, have made her a political liability to the President, the most unpopular First Lady in memory. For reasons both obvious and subtle, that may no longer be the case.

For one thing, Republican attacks against her are now increasingly counter-productive. Yesterday she addresses the convention in prime time, sealing her husband just as hard as Elizabeth Dole sold Bob Dole in her tour de force in San Diego.

For months, the standard

drawing criticism otherwise directed at her husband.

Most Americans think she has been less than truthful over Whitewater, but her approval rating in a CNN/Times magazine poll yesterday were exact

ly divided, 47 to 47. A month ago, disapproval led approval by

14 points. And among many party activists, she remains a heroine. Like Eleanor Roosevelt (with whom, it was recently revealed to much ridicule, she has held imaginary conversations), Mrs Clinton is her husband's social conscience. As such, she has

massive support among core Democratic constituencies, including minorities, old-fashioned liberals and professional women – all groups which are unhappy with the rightward shift of her husband as he seeks re-election.

A former co-chairwoman of the Children's Defense Fund, Mrs Clinton has surely been worried at the welfare reform measure signed last week by her husband, which removes automatic federal aid for children living in poverty, and which was described by the Fund's president, Marian Wright Edelman,

as "a moment of shame". The First Lady, of course, does not go that far.

But her unease is palpable: "Will children suffer?" "I don't think so," she told CBS yesterday. "I have confidence that the President will fix those parts of the bill. There was an opportunity he saw to change this welfare system which everyone knows isn't working well. I'll be watching, along with a lot of other Americans."

And she concludes: "All of a sudden, the era of criticism without responsibility is over. Now that welfare has, in effect,

been handed to the individual state, 'people have to ask themselves, what can we do now?'

Exactly the argument of the President himself, who insists the signed bill is only "the beginning of welfare reform". Plainly she will have a visible role in the forthcoming campaign – although no longer touted by her husband with his celebrated pitch from 1992: "Vote for me and get one free." Nor, she says, will she seek tonight to emulate Mrs Dole's bravura performance at the Republican convention, when she went down among delegates

on the floor like a talkshow host. Her speech was still "a work in progress" yesterday, but it will focus on children's and family issues.

As for the Republican attacks against her – as Mr Dole suggested in San Diego that her book, *It Takes A Village*, was closet socialism – Mrs Clinton affects indifference, dismissing them as partisan sniping against her husband: "I really don't pay much attention. Politically, it benefits them to attack me." Of life in the goldfish bowl of the White House, she said: "I don't regret a minute of it."

Prescott leads Blair drive on Chicago

JOHN CARLIN
Chicago

Over tea and cakes at a downtown Chicago hotel, John Prescott hit upon the stratagem of staging an event to honour the founding of Labour International's Chicago branch – the fifth of its kind in the US, the other four being in Washington, New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

The occasion was a reception on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the launch of the Chicago branch of the Labour Party – one of a host of events on the fringes of the Democratic Party National Convention extravaganza.

What, Mr Prescott was asked, did he mean by the word "Clintonise"? Did he intend it as a compliment? "No, I didn't," he replied emphatically. "It means that you are more concerned with images than with ideas." The Labour Party had tried that game in the 1992 British election and it had failed. The lesson from that failure, he said, was that "you cannot win simply on image and presentation, you have to put forward ideas".

There again, Mr Prescott added, betraying a little confusion as to the exact meaning of the word he had just coined, "if Clintonisation meant winning elections, I'd be in for that."

It is with this second possible meaning in mind that Mr Prescott has come to Chicago at the head of a Labour delegation whose mission it will be to pick up some tips, in anticipation of the election in Britain, from the Democratic Party's master campaign strategists.

To announce the delegation's arrival in the Windy City, Mr

Prescott hit upon the stratagem of staging an event to honour the founding of Labour International's Chicago branch – the fifth of its kind in the US, the other four being in Washington, New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

A local expatriate, Jackie Niven, hosted the proceedings. Ms Niven said that Labour International boasted 250 members in the US. Worldwide the number was 1,100 "and growing all the time". Mr Prescott added that international membership of the party was growing as fast as the party in Britain, with more than 40 branches in 40 countries. A document headed "Your vote could make a world of difference" revealed that Labour International had offices in, among other places, Colombia, Benidorm and Slovenia.

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Mr Prescott, aware of the Conservative Party has displayed more resourcefulness than Labour in the past in courting overseas British voters, said that expatriate Labour votes could make the difference between victory and defeat in marginal parliamentary seats. In the last general election there were a few constituencies where the number of registered overseas voters was greater than the size of the Conservative majority. Therefore, he said, the branches of Labour International were not being constituted merely as social clubs. "They can

join in." As to the size of Chicago's newly formed Labour International branch, Ms Niven, its guiding light, would not reveal the precise number, that had signed up. Pressed, she said: "Upwards of 20 are considering joining."



One man and his dog: Checking security for the Democrats' convention at the United Center, Chicago, last night

Photograph: Seth Perlman / AP

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A name for everyone jostling under the sun

SURABAYA DAYS

Having a double-barrelled surname can be an inconvenience when abroad, especially one rich in Rs and Ls, and especially in Asia. "Richard" most people can just about manage, but "Lloyd" is pushing it a bit, and "Parry" is frankly asking for trouble. In Indonesia this is the first thing everyone wants to know. Taxi drivers, waiters, immigration officials – no transaction is complete without the question: "What is your name?"

At first I compromised with simply "Richard". But after a couple of days in Surabaya I decided it was time to come out of the closet.

"Hello mister!" said the man sitting next to me in the market cafe. "What is your name?"

"Richard Lloyd Parry," I said apologetically. "And what is your name?"

"Bambang Edy Santosa Soeyitno," came the reply.

Never again will I consider my name a problem. For oddity, unworldliness, and sheer unpronounceability, nothing can match the names of Indonesia which seem to embody the unpredictability of the whole country.

The Justice Minister is Oetojo Oesman. The opposition leader is Megawati Sukarnoputri. There is a photographer called Alfa Bravo. Skimming the bylines in the *Surabaya Post* I find Herman Basuki, Oei Eng Goan, Fathur Roy, Hynius Hardoyo, and Djia Weiman Son Andries. Almost everyone sounds like a character in a Thomas Pynchon novel.

The cornucopia of names is only part of the story. Geographically, linguistically, and ethnically, Indonesia is more like an empire, or a solar system, than a nation state. The islands were diverse enough before the arrival of Indians, Chinese, Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch, British, and Japanese, colonising, proselytising and trading. One reckoning counts 365 Indonesian languages and 300 separate ethnic groups. My guidebook lists 33, from the Bali to the Yali. That such a mixture manages to coexist under one flag is remarkable enough but, predictably, it is also the source of some lively prejudice.

Even after a few days in Surabaya, you get a glimpse of

Indocean-Chinese, and I sprinkle it with Japanese salt (Ajinomoto), and American pop (Fanta) bottled under license in Jakarta. The man sitting on my left is a naturalised Arab of Abyssinian and Iraqi parentage. He introduces me to his friend who came to Surabaya from a town in the jungles of Irian Jaya, and has thick fuzzy black hair and an almost African complexion.

His ambition is to go back to Holland, where he once worked and marry a European woman. He asks me if I know any girls. I could introduce him to, but is embarrassed by his English. "If only you spoke Dutch," he says, "then we could talk properly."

After breakfast, I head towards the market. The stalls groan under the produce of the islands: cinnamon sticks, tubers of ginger and ginseng, baskets of cloves, nuts, garlic, tomatoes, cabbages, cucumbers, bananas, papayas and chilis. At the far end is a stall selling a variety of sex toys and aphrodisiacs – creams, sprays and transparent packets of Chinese condoms. Most repulsive are a pile of penile rings, made out of the skin and bristly hairs of an indeterminate animal.

Outside the market is a sluggish river in which a group of small children are washing themselves. "Hello mister!" they shout as I pass. I wave back, and lean on the bridge to look down into the murky waters. A school of turds floats out from beneath the bridge and bobs gently past the children.

I cross the bridge and at last find a familiar sight: yellow arches, chrome and glass, and inside a party of children throwing Big Macs at one another. Almost simultaneously, I stumble through the McPortals, avoid for air conditioning and predictability. A Chinese girl takes my order of French fries; her badge identifies her as Rita and she urges me to have a nice day. "What's your name?" asks Rita in an American accent. "Where do you come from?"

Richard Lloyd Parry

Scandal of Nazi massacre cover-up

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

Perhaps the German judges who tried and failed to track down the war criminal Erich Priebke were too highly qualified for the job. What other conclusion can one draw from the revelation that the three Nazis employed by the prosecutor's office in Dortmund were Nazis themselves?

Some poachers make good gamekeepers, but not the three senior officials who were in charge of Priebke's file between 1947 and 1973. Evidence of Priebke's guilt in the murder of more than 300 Italian civilians was established at the trial in Italy of SS Commander Herbert Kappler in 1948. Our three diligent public servants, now dead, filed them away in the original Italian. Case closed.

The Justice Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia confirmed yesterday that the oversight might not have been entirely unconnected with its Nazi-hunters' brown history. Eight senior officials in the Dortmund prosecutor's office had belonged to the Nazi party before the war. Of the three who were directly involved with Priebke's case, one had joined the National Socialists even before Hitler came to power in 1933; the other two joined soon afterwards. Two of the three held a rank in Hitler's storm-troops, the SA. "From today's point of view, their employment seems scarcely understandable," conceded the then Land Justice Minister, Rolf Krumseck, last year.

The documents and the political controversy have again come to light following Priebke's trial in Italy. He was found guilty of murder, but his crime was deemed unpunishable under the 1946 statute of limitations. Hermann Weisinger, the official now in charge of the Dortmund war-crimes unit, said last week that prosecutors had all the documents they needed to indict Priebke, but that the case had been inexplicably bungled.

After Italy's failure to send Priebke to jail, Germany now wants him extradited.

١٥٢ من المصلحة

ling.

hour like a talkshow host's speech was still working his American audience in clutching and fidgeting for the Republican angle at her - as Mr. Dakin left San Diego, that is. *It takes a little bit of socialism*, Mrs. Bush concluded, referring to partisan outrage over husband George's political attention. Politically, she said, they had attacked me in the golf clubs, bowling alleys, the House, she said. "I had a minute or two."

Marble Arch.
The Mount Royal, W1.



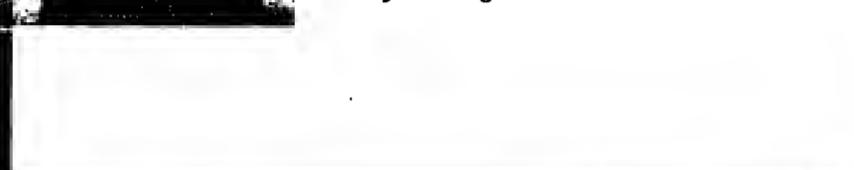
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essay

Scientology is as worthy of belief as Christianity or Judaism. True or false?

When you're suffering from a nasty touch of the dawkins, all religions seem equally nonsensical. Andrew Brown wonders how a reasonable person might distinguish the good from the bad

I think I've got the dawkins: pray for me. It is a terrible condition, caused after the distinguished atheist. This is not the ordinary casus which descends like a cloud of raving horses when I am trying to pay attention to an archbishop's thoughts. It is not even the sense of being stuck in a tumble drier half full of rocks that overwhelms me when I read papal encyclical all the way through and try to follow their logic. It is worse than that. The full-blown dawkins is the state where there seems nothing to choose between any religion. They are all insane, all untrue - they might as well all be Aztecs.

The Aztecs make a wonderful subject for a student of religion since - nowadays - they have neither temples, priests, nor libel lawyers. They never had much use for libel lawyers anyway, preferring stone knives with which they chopped out the hearts of anyone who displeased them. It was quite an elaborate ceremony and would not nowadays get past the animal rights people if you were nasty enough to perform it on a veal calf. Yet the Aztecs were undoubtedly sincere in believing that if they did not perform the ceremony every day, the sun would refuse to rise. And they undoubtedly had experiences that validated their beliefs. They

were certain that God wanted them to do these things.

Is there any rational reason for supposing they were wrong?

If one of my children announced that they were becoming an Aztec fundamentalist, how could I argue that I would prefer him to become a Buddhist, a Christian or Muslim instead?

However, the Aztec religion did not survive competition with Christianity. This is not just because flint weapons are no match for firearms. It was also because the Aztec church could not survive disestablishment. Without coercion, people found it unconvincing. So here is one clue as to how we might discriminate between religious those that have lasted longest and in the most varied circumstances are likely to have something to recommend them, even if it is not immediately apparent what.

Religions do compete and do disappear. It is one of the oddest things about them. The disappearance is obvious: the Aztecs, the Romans, the Greeks, even the druids, have all gone. We do not really know what they believed, or how they believed, or what they did. Almost everywhere that belief in many gods met belief in one god, monotheism triumphed. This pattern is odd. It suggests that religious beliefs do refer to some kind of metaphysical reality.

.

The monotheistic religions have also struggled with each other. All have developed rational arguments to keep the wavering within the fold, and to convert unbelievers. St Thomas Aquinas' great summary of the Christian religion was written as the *Summa contra Gentiles*: an argument against the Muslims. In fact all the great religions that we now see have been shaped by competition with others. All of them can give good reasons why the choice of religious belief can be made reasonably and is important. And yet, when one has the dawkins, all these reasons look ridiculous. The mere existence of interminable disputes seems to guarantee that there is something profoundly wrong about all the arguments.

This mood need last no longer than it takes to look at some real examples. Even within religions it is impossible to suspect judgement. An attitude of impartial and indiscriminate scorn cannot long survive contact with Ian Paisley or Morris Cerullo. Surely there must be Christians better than this. Compare the Dalai Lama with the staring-eyed cultists of some Western Buddhist sects, and there is no doubt which is the better Buddhist. I even have a soft spot for the late Ayatollah Khomeini, ever since I read his letter attempting to convert President Gorbachev to Islam. It was remarkably persuasive, lucid, and reasonably argued. Indeed, my own problem with Islamic fundamentalists is that

they put too much faith in logic and expect the world to be more consistent than it actually is. Their arguments are by no means insane. If anything, the fault is that they lack the paradoxical quality which any explanation of the real world would seem to demand.

But it is almost always a mistake to judge any religion by the apparent sanity of the things it asks us to believe. Otherwise there would be no way of distinguishing between, say, orthodox Judaism and Scientology.

The two are not yoked together entirely by chance. As

organised demonstrations outside the film *Mission Impossible* because its star, Tom Cruise, is a scientologist; the German minister of employment has announced that his country is at war with "the giant octopus of scientology".

The German foes of scientology are claiming that its beliefs are so absurd it cannot be a religion. The scientists claim, with neutral academic backing, that they are a religion, so their beliefs cannot be absurd. Both are wrong.

To become a senior scientologist you have to believe, or

to the great religions as "well-informed". This is a way of saying that they address unchanging human concerns and come up with answers that remain realistic.

.

A new religion tends to argue first that it is true; and second that its adherents prosper. A really confident sect will argue the second point first and loudest, as evangelical Christianity and scientology do now. But they only become trustworthy after they have abandoned the second point almost entirely.

Under the stress of time and chance and suffering, religions change, and sometimes quite radically. Sometimes this is because of conflicts within their own belief systems, where contradictions suddenly appear. Christianity accepted slavery for most of its history, and had good biblical reasons for doing so. When finally it became apparent to Christians - and it was overwhelmingly Christians who ended the slave trade - that the biblical defences of slavery could not be reconciled with other parts of the gospel message, then slavery went. A similar thing now is happening to Christianity and democracy, something which would have come as unwelcome news to the great majority of saints through the ages.

Orthodox Judaism, too, though it may reject historical criticism, has survived a much greater shock in its time: the final destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD70 and its replacement by scattered synagogues. Some such crisis is essential to the maturity of religions. Who can doubt that Judaism is better and richer now without the Temple - and that anyone who expects the Temple to be rebuilt, as prophesied, is probably looking forward to a nuclear war, since its remains are buried beneath the second holiest site in the Muslim world.

The dangers that bad religions can produce show that we must distinguish between good and bad religions. But how can we?

I think we must turn to a second sort of evidence, written in the lives of the believers. Religions all carry an ethical freight. They are injunctions to behave as well as to believe, and, in so far as the two can be disentangled, the behaviour is probably more important than the beliefs. But they cannot be very far disentangled. To a large extent the behaviour is the meaning of the belief. A Pharisaic injunction like "love your neighbour as yourself" cannot be properly understood without being acted on. The action shows you have understood it.

By contrast, the action that shows you believe and have understood doctrines of scientology is to hand over money to the heirs of L Ron Hubbard, the science fiction writer who made it all up. I think I can see which religion is more reasonable. The dawkins have quite gone away now, thank you.



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A wee word about the Scots

Scotland really is a different country. They have a different agenda up here. The lead stories in the Scottish papers, for example, are not generally the same as down south. For a week or two there has been a series of revelations about sexual goings-on at Celtic Football Club (young managers in the past being accused of molesting younger players) which I don't think have hit the headlines in England. Imagine if it were revealed that young players at Manchester United had in the past been sexually harassed by the staff. Imagine what a hoo-ha would arise. Manchester United would be so embarrassed they would probably change their playing strip again. But it being Celtic, the matter comes under the heading of foreign news.

Football priorities are predictably different, too. On Sunday afternoon I was in a pub called the Conan Doyle at the top of Broughton Street in Edinburgh, trying to persuade the bar staff to put up a poster for our show.

"It's OK," he said, "I just want to see the Hearts result."

After a long wait while he drunkenly tried to find it, but could only locate all the cheap holiday offers in the world, it finally flashed up.

Aberdeen 4 Hearts 0.

The man slumped on a bar stool.

"I'm sorry, we're not

putting up Fringe posters."

"Ah, but this is different. Look at the title - 'The Death of Tchaikovsky - Sherlock Holmes Mystery'. That's why I've come to the Conan Doyle!"

"Well, I don't know, I'll have to ask the boss when he comes in..."

And there on the bar TV set was a live football match on Sky, Manchester United v Blackburn Rovers, so I sat and watched it idly for 10 minutes until a large and rather drunken Scot came in and stood at the bar. He looked at the TV. An idea came to him. He commanded the remote control and turned the TV over to Cefnix.

"Hey!" we shouted, in a cowardly whisper.

"It's OK," he said, "I just want to see the Hearts result."

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The man slumped on a bar

stool.

English. In Scotland they have pubs named after Conan Doyle, who was an Edinburgh man. *Vive la difference*.

Another difference is in the language, even in newspapers. Regularly I encounter words in print up here which I have never seen before. "Stoater" and "tanking" are words I have met before, and learnt the meaning of, but already this time around I have come across "buffy" and "bampot" in reputable papers, and have no idea what they mean.

The clincher came yesterday when the papers led off with two attacks on media figures, one by the BBC's Colin Cameron on Kate Adie, the other by John Ware on Esther Rantzen. Mr Cameron was cross about Kate Adie's "forensic" approach to the reporting of the Dunblane shooting, while John Ware was scathing about Esther Rantzen's report on a London hospital.

I wonder if you can guess which news item got more headlines in the English papers, and which got more headlines up here in Scotland?

Correct. Dunblane was headline news in Scotland and Esther Rantzen headline news down south.

Far be it for me to say which was the more important, but there is one point I would like to pick up, and that is Colin Cameron's use of the word "forensic". I think he meant to say that Kate Adie was cool and detached, impartial and not sympathetic. But this is not what "forensic" means. It means "used for legal purposes". Forensic science is science used for the purposes of determining someone's guilt or innocence, surely? A person can't actually be forensic, and I certainly don't think he meant that Kate Adie had rushed into Dunblane to determine guilt or innocence.

I suppose that "forensic" is going the same way as "clinical", from a nice technical term to a meaning of detachment (the same way that "chronic" has gone from usefully meaning "long-term" to uselessly meaning "really awful").

Still, it's nice to know that Scots get words wrong too.

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10 JULY 1996

the commentators

We need the BBC, and Auntie needs her friends

The tone of the Edinburgh International Television Festival was set in the opening words by the chairman, an independent producer: his introduction to the lecture by the BBC's director general was not so much a warm welcome as a char-grilling by blow torch.

At the end of his speech the director-general called for the support of the television industry for the BBC's appeal to the Government for the first real increase in the licence fee for 10 years. In days gone by there might have been a rallying round in such an audience. But now its appeal fell upon stonier ground.

Surely no instinctive upsurge of loyalty to Auntie. A new air of lethal and serious competition has entered into this industry that barely existed in the old world of the cosy and somewhat incestuous terrestrial channels. Natural sympathy for the old public service ethos is waning.

Afterwards I found a huddle of ITV producers and executives spluttering and fuming among themselves. Why, they demanded to know, should they support the BBC? Where was the BBC under Michael Chrichton, back in 1992, when ITV desperately needed support against the savage selling-off to

There is enough skimping in broadcasting – let's keep the standard bearer

the highest bidder of ITV franchises in the Broadcasting Act?

The BBC stood aside and said nothing as ITV money was scooped out of programme-making into Treasury coffers. At the time the BBC was keeping its nose clean with the Government to ensure a renewal of its own Charter.

The next day at a session to discuss the speech, a vote was taken on whether the BBC deserved a bigger licence fee or not. It was almost too close to call, though the moderator opined that the ayes had it – just. It is a small sign of the big battle ahead.

But the television festival is not the best testing ground of public opinion. It is the industry's annual forum for networking and bitching, back-scratching and back-stabbing, with burgeoning battalions of independent hopefuls mingling among the Masters of the Networks. The bars hum with deals, pleas and proposals. "It's a winning format, absolutely." "Remember me? I wrote to you a month ago ... Elbows are tugged, sleeves plucked, a look of frenetic overreaching gleams in too many eyes.

For this can be a desperate busi-



POLLY TOYNBEE

ness, where programme ideas and scripts lie in unattended piles on desks of the powerful while phone calls go unanswered. Last year 32,000 young people entered higher education media courses. God help them, for it is a world growing tougher every year. A Granada executive admitted he was making programmes for Sky for under £5,000 an hour, which drew gasps of incredulity. Squeeze, skimp and cut is the story almost everywhere. That is why it is so important to make sure the BBC gets the money to make high-quality programmes.

But raising the question at all is dangerous, reminding people of the licence fee's curious status as a regressive poll tax. Not surprisingly David Elstein, director of pro-

grammes at Rupert Murdoch's Sky, made the running in the debate. People should not have to pay it, he said baldly. It doesn't matter that Sky revenues will outstrip the BBC's this year. Let the BBC offer itself to subscribers. The BBC has no divine right, it must find its natural market. And what (crocodile tears here) of the 750 single mothers who go to prison every year for non-payment of their licence?

At the moment a team of inspectors sent in by the Government is examining the BBC's books. Over the next few months a number of seductive alternatives in the licence fee will emerge again from right-wing think-tanks and disingenuous competitors out to bamboozle those politicians with an itch to mend something that isn't broken.

One idea puts a gleam in every commercial broadcaster's eye – a central public service funding agency should commission good programmes right across the airwaves. The BBC would cease to be this monstrous 24,000-strong institution that is often both hell to work for and hell to manage. (Its morale has been "an all time low" for-

ever, along with the NHS, universities and schools. It is the fate of institutions employing the extra-intelligent to have a miserable and bolshevik workforce; they could all run it better themselves). Instead of the BBC networks putting out good but uncommercial programmes such as *Panorama* or *Our Friends In The North*, they might be funded and farmed out to anyone on any network.

Other suggestions abound, but each would quickly lead to a declining quality, as has happened across Europe's public broadcasters where other means of funding have been grafted on.

The BBC's divine right is what gets up the nose of other broadcasters – its sanctimoniousness, its arrogance, its size and power, its dominance. It is well and truly disliked and resented by many broadcasters and politicians. But it is loved and supported by the great majority of the population – and they like it a lot better than they like politicians. It is just about the only thing left that Britain does really well, better than anyone else.

The licence fee may have drawn

backs. But, as Churchill said about democracy, no one has come up with a better idea. It is also astonishingly good value. Half of all listening and viewing is to the BBC – all for considerably less than the cost of one packet of cigarettes every week, a week's supply of the Sun, or the £300 it costs for a full Sky subscription. As for the fate of those who end up in prison for non-payment, that is part of the scandal of the way courts deal with debtors – not the BBC's fault.

If a future government wants to subsidise television for the poorest that's down to them. But knives are being sharpened. The Murdoch press, ever eager to promote his real commercial interests in television, is to be watched. (*The Times* immediately trumpeted gleefully on the front page "Birt's Call For More Money Is Rejected", chortling over apparent instant-negative reaction by both Labour and Tories). Both parties are terrified of offending Murdoch before the election, and probably after it too. The BBC will need those who are essentially its friends, inside and outside the industry, to bury their hatchets and admit that British broadcasting quality has always depended on the BBC acting as its guy rope and standard bearer.

The Royal road to unwedded bliss

The Princess of Wales will be spending a quiet day alone in Kensington Palace tomorrow as her marriage officially ends. Her ex-husband will be with the family at Balmoral.

Frankly, what a boring end to the marriage that has provided such amusement to the British people for the past 15 years. The Queen granted a public holiday for the Royal Wedding, so she should do the same on Royal Divorce Day after the endless documentaries, paparazzi abuse, affairs, non-affairs and Will Carling we have all had to endure.

The Prince and Princess would have no shortage of things to do to make their divorce go with a bang. Ceremonies, parties, greetings cards are now all run-of-the-mill for parting couples. Their first port of call should be *Divorce Magazine*, newly launched in America. The first issue offers helpful hints on getting through that difficult transitional period. "Haven't been on a date in 15 years? We'll show you some great new ways of meeting people in the 1990s," blares one headline, although according to most royal scandals that's one area in which neither Charles nor Diana needs practice.

If not content with her £15m settlement, Diana could leaf through to money matters to stave off boredom: "If you suspect your spouse is hiding assets, here's help finding them – or satisfying yourself that there's nothing to hide." And for Charles there is the indispensable: "How To Do It: The all-sports, swimsuit-illustrated Bachelor Guy's Guide to Housekeeping".

But what the royal couple's devoted public needs is public display of lack of affection. The obvious divorce fashion accessory these days is the divorce ceremony – far more satisfactory than a short announcement in court. The Church of England still does not officially condone this, although in May Canon Michael Woods sought to get the practice of "divorce ceremonies" officially recognised by the Norwich Diocesan Synod. The proposal was voted down two to one.

As a future head of the Church of England, Charles might be reluctant to approach the Unitarian Church but they do have such ceremonies well organised. One possible service begins: "After much effort, pain and anger Charles and Diana have decided that they no longer wish to be husband and wife. They still wish to be friends and to respect each other and care about each other." Well, we know they no longer wish to be husband and wife...

A simpler way might be just to send a card. "All Good Things Must End ... So Do The Bad Ones. Congratulations On Your Divorce" is one example.

But there is one way that both Charles and Diana could profitably spend the day. A Canadian company offers the service of removing exes from photographs "without a trace". Both of them could enjoy Wednesday digitally expunging each other's features and remembering John Kenneth Galbraith's advice "The happiest time in anyone's life is just after the first divorce".

GLENDA COOPER

Big money deals are starving pop

So, \$80m for REM. But that leaves little change for tomorrow's acts, says Andy Gill

Judging by the colossal deal signed this week between Warner Brothers Records and the American rock group REM, reports in recent years of the "death of pop" have proven, not only premature, but well wide of the target.

The arrangement, which netts the Athens, Georgia-based group a cool \$80m for only five albums, is one of the biggest recording deals ever struck in the music industry, confirming the band's position as one of the most popular acts in the world today.

It is not, however, the largest deal ever struck with a recording artist. That, like most record-breaking feats in the record business, remains in Michael Jackson's domain, although the \$80m multimedia deal he signed with the

son's own work but also the rights to other artists' publishing catalogues that he had previously purchased, most notably the Northern Songs portfolio containing Lennon & McCartney's Beatles compositions.

As with English football transfers, the Nineties have been the silly season for music-industry deals. Observers were shocked in 1991 when Virgin Records signed Janet Jackson for \$50m and The Rolling Stones for \$30m – although the deals were explained as a means whereby Richard Branson could "fatten up" his Virgin record label with only a few money-spinning stars (Genesis, Phil Collins), before selling it off for around half a billion pounds.

In the film industry, appearances are all-important: accordingly, telephone-number deals are often struck simply to demonstrate to the Los Angeles

film colony that the studio in question can attract the talent.

Much the same holds for the music business. When CBS, for instance, re-signed Bob Dylan, it wasn't necessarily expecting to recoup its entire investment from Dylan's own recordings. It was buying Dylan's position as an artist of great probity, which would be of incalculable help in attracting other artists.

So, too, with Warner and REM, lauded as much for their humanitarian ethos and environment-friendly attitude as for their music. Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, deeply troubled by the conflict between his original punk ideals and the immense success that would eventually lead him to suicide, once regretted being unable to handle the fame as well as REM's frontman Michael Stipe, whom he referred to as virtually a saint. It's that saintliness, as much as anything, on which Warner has taken up its option: in negotiations with young indie or "college-rock" bands, it will doubtless prove invaluable.

But, as with English football once more, big-money deals tell only part of the story. Every \$80m that a label is paying a Janet Jackson or REM is \$80m less in the kitty to develop those young indie bands attracted by

the big-name artists. When rock music first became a global mega-bucks business, record labels would routinely sign bands to six-album deals, relying on their artist & repertoire (A&R) departments to develop the band's career over the full course of the contract. Rare indeed was the debut album that made money, or was intended to do anything other than introduce the group's name to the public; indeed, there would be several years of subsidy – through tours, adver-

tising, marketing and further recordings – before the company expected to see a return on its investment. Now, new bands sign deals for singles, and if the first single doesn't chart under its own steam, they may never get to make an album. It's a myopic, short-term strategy that has resulted in the erosion of the major labels' A&R departments whose traditional talent-spotting duties are now carried out by independent companies such as Creation and Go! Discs –

which are then forced to sign licensing deals with the majors to finance the development of acts, such as Oasis, that break through to wider audiences.

It's a remarkably similar situation to that of the early days of rock 'n' roll, when local hits on small American labels would be picked up by major distributors for national release. Then again, the stakes weren't quite as high in those days. When Sam Phillips sold Elvis Presley's contract to RCA, he received the princely sum of \$35,000.

Cool dude: Warner wants REM's front-man, Michael Stipe, for his saintly image. But new bands are squeezed out



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What we recognise as modern art has one outstanding characteristic: it is not mimetic. That is, it does not seek to create an illusionistic representation of the visible world but rather to establish its own reality as an independent object – its autonomy, in the jargon. With this goes a corresponding emphasis on the purely formal or aesthetic aspect of the work – its character as an autonomous structure of line, form, colour, texture. In modern art, everyday reality may be referred to, or evoked, in ways ranging from more or less distorted or stylised representations to the direct incorporation in the work of "real" objects or materials. Or it may be excluded altogether in favour of some form of abstraction – perhaps the most purely modern art.

Paradoxically, the evolution of art towards this condition can be traced back to the 19th century rejection of the Renaissance tradition of "history" or "high art", by then largely debased in the hands of the academies, in favour of a direct engagement with the real world, especially nature. John Constable is as good a place as any to locate a beginning of this process: in 1828, he wrote bitterly of those who preferred the shaggy posteriors of a satyr to the moral feel-

ing of landscape. He was referring to the members of the Royal Academy who had just failed to elect him to the Academy in favour of William Etty, a painter of "high art" pictures, the ostensible moral content of which, or simply their use of high art motifs (eg nymphs and satyrs), screened their real salaciousness.

Constable's comment evinces a crucial aspect of modern art – its claiming of the moral high ground, initially for an art based on the truth of nature or the everyday realities of life. Later, in the 20th century, art claimed this moral eminence, precisely in the degree to which it was not an illusion and could be seen as an embodiment or emblem of truth – because it was true to itself as a medium and true also to the artist's personal vision, unsullied by the demands of patrons or, indeed, any material considerations.

Let's return to the apparent paradox of a line from Constable's rural landscapes to, say, Mondrian blocks of primary colours. Constable's whole practice was based on working direct from nature; yet rather than producing a smooth, illusionistic image, he found ways to represent what he saw in marks of paint that had a real, physical, anti-illusionistic presence. His contemporaries in England (but

not in France, where he was admired) were completely baffled by this, together with the apparent artlessness, the lack of reference to tradition, of his approach to the motif: "My art flatters nobody by imitation, it courts nobody by smoothness, it tickles nobody by pettiness ... how then can I hope to be popular?"

Constable had no successors in England, but in France later in the century the artists who became known as the Impressionists took up the radical practice (instigated by Constable) of painting a "finished" picture out of doors. The result seems to have been an increasing focus on the motif as a pattern of light and colour, an increasing emphasis on the brushstroke, and an increasing degree of abstraction (as, for example, in Monet's Rouen Cathedral series or his waterlilies).

From the mid-1880s the so-called Post-Impressionists – Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat, Cézanne – took Impressionism in various different directions but consistently emphasised pattern and heightened or exaggerated colour. In 1905, the Fauve group, led by Matisse, started Paris with paintings in which colour appeared entirely detached from observed reality and in which the motif was rendered, literally, in the broadest brush.

Critical debate has raged

increasingly ever since. Mean-

while, art sells serenely on ...

Tomorrow. Opera

obituaries/gazette

Professor W.J.M. Mackenzie

W.J.M. ("Bill") Mackenzie was one of two or three personalities who shaped the social sciences in British universities in the 1950s and 1960s. In these years he was also an adviser on constitutional development in East Africa and on English local and regional government.

Mackenzie came from a reasonably prosperous family in Dundee and he was always something of a canny Scot. His father was a successful lawyer (Writer to the Signet) in Edinburgh. As a student at Edinburgh Academy the young Mackenzie received a strict training in the classics, something that always showed in later life. He was a high flyer, won a scholarship to Balliol at 16, and had to wait a year before going up in 1927. At Oxford he won more prizes and took a Double First in Greats.

Following the family path he returned to Edinburgh to gain an LLB in two years. He was appointed as a Classics don at Magdalen, Oxford in 1933. But he grew bored with teaching grammar and when the College looked to strengthen its PPE teaching, he switched to being a Politics fellow in 1936. He taught himself the subject, reading voraciously and drawing on his knowledge of ancient philosophy and law. To the end one felt that he found the study of politics congenial because it allowed him to indulge in and profit from his interest in so many other fields.

He was part of the dons' invasion of Whitehall in the war. From 1939 to 1944 as a member of the secretariat in the Air Ministry (1939-44), he was a participant observer of the conflict between Tizard and Lindemann and the debate over the bomber offensive. After the

war he wrote a secret history of the SOE operations in France, which has not yet been published.

His first contact with industrial England came with his appointment to a Chair of Government and Administration at Manchester University in 1948. Few had heard of Mackenzie, who had no publications to his name, but he built up an outstanding Government department which until the early 1960s was the best in Britain and gained an international reputation. He did it by spotting talent: from Aberdeen to Oxford he picked bright young men who were not necessarily political scientists but wished to become so.

At Manchester he created a culture, not of publish or perish, but of intellectual excitement and keeping abreast of developments in the discipline in the United States. In the early 1950s his young colleagues were pioneers in studies of voting behaviour, community power, pressure groups and developing countries. He had a remarkable instinct for where the subject was heading.

Manchester was an exciting place to be in the 1950s. Sir John Barbirolli conducted the Hallé, the *Guardian* was still a Manchester paper and the BBC *Brains Trust* met regularly there. The University's social science faculty was probably the liveliest in the country. The economists Ely Devons and W. Arthur Lewis, the anthropologist Max Gluckman, the philosopher Dorothy Emmet and Mackenzie argued enthusiastically at weekly interdisciplinary staff seminars. These were exhilarating but also sometimes terrifying occasions for visiting speakers because subject bound-



Mackenzie: shaped the discipline of political science. Photograph: BBC

aries did not exist for the Manchester polymaths. Mackenzie's view was that politics was best studied in conjunction with other subjects and that other subjects should always be aware of the political dimension.

As well as building up an institution Mackenzie was also shaping the discipline. Perhaps no other professor of politics exercised more patronage. He made many appointments at Manchester but he also influenced the selections for many Politics chairs in the 1960s.

now time to return to Scotland and in 1966 he took the Bryce Chair.

Young lecturers at Manchester regarded Mackenzie with reverence tinged with awe. This was due partly to his erudition in so many disciplines, and partly to the exacting standards which he insisted on. It is difficult to imagine a similar relationship in university departments today. I once overheard an elderly academic refer to some of his former colleagues, now distinguished professors of politics (then in their forties), as still "Bill Mackenzie's little boys".

His management of the department was informal and paternalistic. He made the appointments, held few departmental meetings and governed by conversation and memo. It was a benevolent despotism and, again, is almost unimaginable today; those were days when powerful professors could stand up to Vice-Chancellors and win.

He was never an imperialist about the social sciences. He acknowledged, but was not a casualty of the two cultures war between natural science and the humanities. The study of politics could never be a hard science, although this was a useful aspiration. It was organised knowledge, communicable as a set of propositions. He thought that politics dealt with the awkward bits left by other disciplines.

The job (of political science) is to talk in an orderly manner, paying regard to consistency and verifiability, about a unique situation which is extremely complex and changes rapidly" he wrote in *Politics and Social Science*, his best-selling Penguin (1967). He did not believe that

lectures or even articles should be too worked out. They should stimulate, suggest and leave students and readers to work things out for themselves. A young colleague commented that a number of students did not fully understand his lectures, but did not doubt that they were listening to a great man.

Mackenzie was also one of the "Good and the Great" who staffed government committees, councils and other public bodies. He knew his way around Whitehall but – from his years in Scotland, Oxford and Manchester – also knew the world outside. He always took the view that his academic studies should inform his role as a man of affairs and vice versa. He was a constitutional advisor to the new states of Tanganyika and Kenya. He was one of the first members of the new Social Science Research Council between 1965 and 1969, served on the Maud Committee on Management and Local Government (1964-66), the committee on Remuneration of Ministers and MPs (1963-64) and the North-West Regional Economic Planning Council from 1965 until his departure to Glasgow. In Glasgow he was a member of various local and Scottish public bodies.

In 1963 he drew on the astute skills of the classical philosophical skills and his intimate understanding of the ways of Whitehall to write a brilliant full-page translation in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 1961 Plowden committee's report on public spending. It began: "We proceed on two principles: 'No dirty linen in public, and outside critics are bards.' He regarded the report as an example of opaque Whitehall prose employed as a device to

allow mandarins to converse in public without being understood.

It is true that he never specialised and so did not produce the great definitive book. But his real qualities were better seen in the acknowledgements and prefaces to articles and books that other political scientists were writing in the 1950s and 1960s. He was a synthesiser, brilliant at making connections across disciplines, ruminating about the state of a field, and suggesting new topics of research. A footnote could move from the classics to a controversy in biology to the mythic aspects of a television soap opera. His qualities were best seen in the scores of essays, talks and seminars which he gave. Some were collected in his *Explorations in Government: Collected Papers 1951-1958* (1975).

Often he was oblique and allusive, pointing to puzzles and problems, suggesting new ways of looking at the familiar. This was a very different style from his distinguished successor at Manchester, Sammy Fine, who always liked to have the last word.

Yet his publications were distinctive and heterogeneous. His co-authored *Central Administration in Great Britain* (1957) was an outstanding account of the form and work of British central government. From his interest in Africa came *Free Elections* (1958) and *Five Elections in Africa* (1960), with Kenneth Robinson. His magisterial *Politics and Social Science*, an encyclopaedic study of the field, and *The Study of Political Science Today* (1972) could perhaps only have been written by him. The first explained political science to the social scientist and social science to the student of poli-

tics. He wrote about political theory, political resistance in Norway, Africa, regionalism in Italy, among other things. He was a generalist in the best sense.

His appearance changed little from his forties to his seventies. He had a shock of silver wavy hair, friendly blue eyes, a ruddy complexion and a slow Scottish accent. He had a tall shambling gait and there was something of the figure of Father Christmas about him. He was a good mixer, humorous, a marvellous stimulator of staff and students, and always welcoming to those from overseas.

He retired from his Glasgow chair in 1974. There followed more books: *Power, Violence and Decision* (1975), *Political Identity* (1977), *Biological Ideas and Politics* (1978) and a study of health care. If they did not attract the attention they deserved, it was probably because the range was too wide for a more narrowly trained generation of political and social scientists.

He married Pam Maylon in 1943. There were four daughters and one son.

Dennis Kavanagh

William James Millar Mackenzie, political scientist: born 8 April 1909; Fellow of Magdalen College 1933-48; War History SOE (part-time) 1943-45; Professor of Government and Administration, Manchester University 1949-55; Professor of Government 1955-66; CBE 1963; James Bryce Professor of Government, Glasgow University 1966-70; Edward Caird Professor of Politics 1970-74 (Emeritus); FBA 1968; married 1943 Pamela Maylon (one son, four daughters); died Glasgow 22 August 1996.

David Donaldson

David Donaldson celebrated his eightieth birthday on 29 June. This event was marked with the publication of his biography, and shortly afterwards with a major retrospective exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh which is currently at Glasgow School of Art. Both the book and exhibition present the wealth, energy and sheer joy of his painting, and it is a tragic irony that, in the midst of these celebrations, the art world learnt of his death.

David Abercrombie Donaldson was a man of contrasts. He was born in 1916 of working-class parents in the industrial lowlands of Scotland. In his own words he was "a wee hastard who was hauled up a close in Coatbridge". Yet, in a distinguished career as a portrait painter, he mixed with the highest of British society culminating in a commission to paint a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in 1966.

Among the formal honours received by him were Associate Member and then Academician of the Royal Scottish Academy, and honorary degrees from Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities. In 1977 he was appointed Painter and Limner to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland. His paintings are in the Royal Collection, in most of the major public collections in Scotland, and in private collections across Britain, Europe, Australia, the United States and South Africa.

Without any formal qualifications, Donaldson entered Glasgow School of Art at the age of 15, and he stayed there until his retirement at the age of 55. He progressed from student to part-time tutor to – finally in 1967 – Head of Drawing and Painting.

His own students and colleagues remember him as an inspiring and brilliant teacher who always taught by his own example. "For Christ's sake Morrison you hang pearls round that!" one student recalls being admonished in a life class.

The same student remembers the colour that Donaldson brought in his life and to his painting in the drab years in the early 1950s when rationing still lingered on. Although Don-

aldson could be difficult he had a genuine regard and fondness for his students.

He believed that art should be taught by artists and he had a strong dislike of bureaucracy, in all its forms. Rather than working for formal examinations he believed that students should just get on with painting. That was, indeed, just what he had done.

These principles led to clashes with the authorities when, as Head of Drawing and Painting, he was forced to see in changes to the structure of teaching. He fought, without success, against what he saw as a threat to the integrity of his principles.

Despite these turmoils however he is remembered as one of the few Heads who always kept the door of his studio open – for anyone. Furthermore he was "fantastic company" and any other colleague arriving early to the studios would be welcomed by him with streaky bacon rolls and mugs of very strong tea.

In his own work it was the sheer quality of paint and colour that Donaldson loved. He had both a delicacy of touch and an exuberance that rubbed off on everything he painted, whether figures, landscapes, still lifes or allegorical paintings. Both his commissioned portraits, of which there are a great number, and the many paintings of himself, his wife, daughters and models, have a directness and humanity stemming from his relationship to that other human being in his studio, the sitter. He would paint directly on to white canvas, without the use of preparatory drawings.

David Donaldson is survived by his wife, Marysa, his son, Sebastian, and his two daughters, Sally and Caroline.

Joanna Soden

David Abercrombie Donaldson, painter; born Chryston, Strathclyde 29 June 1916; RSA 1951, RSA 1962; Head of Painting School, Glasgow School of Art 1957-81; Her Majesty's Painter and Limner in Scotland 1977-96; married 1942 Kathleen Boyd Maxwell (one son); 1949 Marysa Mora-Score (two daughters); died Glasgow 22 August 1996.

service will be held in London on a date to be announced.

MACKENZIE: Peacefully at Western Infirmary, Glasgow on 22 August 1996. Professor W.J.M. Mackenzie CBE, Emeritus Professor of Politics at Glasgow and Manchester Universities. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, North Balloch on Monday 2 September 1996 at 1pm. No flowers please. Remembered with love by his wife and family.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL, telephone 0171-393 2011 or fax to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Jacques Arnold MP, 49; Mr Gerald Berger, motor racing driver, 37; Sir Donald Bradman, cricketer, 88; Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, 68; Sir Hugh Bryant, former diplomat, 69; Sir Stewart Crawford, former diplomat, 83; Lord Dorman of Easington, former government minister, 77; Miss Stan Edwards, conductor and music director, English National Opera, 37; The Earl of Eglington and Windsor, former managing director, and deputy chairman, Gerrard & National Holdings, 57; Lady Antonia Fraser, author, 64; Mr David Hart, trade union leader, 56; Mr Michael Holroyd, author, 61; Mr Bernard Langer, golfer, 39; Mr John Lloyd, tennis player, 42; Mr Andrew

MacKay MP, a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, 47; Sir James Molloyaux MP, 76; Sir Mark Potter, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 59; Viscount Rothermere, newspaper proprietor, 71; The Right Rev Richard Rut, former Bishop of Leicester, 71; Mother Teresa, missionary, 86; Mr Jack Thompson MP, 68; Mr Andy Turnell, jockey, 48; Mr Robin Waterfield, bookseller and publisher, 82; Lt-Gen Sir John Watt, 66; Mr Edmund Weiner, lexicographer, 47.

Anniversaries

Births: Confucius, philosopher, 551 BC; Alessandro Farnese, Duke of Parma, general and diplomat, 1545; Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel,

philosopher, 1770; Karl Bosch, industrial chemist, 1874; Lloyd Casser Douglas, novelist, 1877; The Hon. Charles Stewart Rolls, motor manufacturer, 1877; Samuel Goldwyn (Samuel Gelbfisz), film magnate, 1882; Eric Coates, viola player and composer, 1886; Cecil Scott Forester, novelist, 1899; Lyndou Baines Johnson, 36th president of the US, 1903; Martha Raye (Margaret Theresa Yvonne Reed), actress and comedienne, 1916; Deaths: Joseph Desprez, composer, 1521; Titian (Tiziano Vecellio), painter, a victim of the plague, 1576; Pope Sixtus V, 1590; John George Schwartz, painter, 1574; John Henry Foley, sculptor, 1874; Eugenio-Samuel Auguste Firminetti, novelist and painter, 1876; Sir Rowland Hill, founder of penny postage, 1879; Louis Botha, soldier and statesman, 1919; "Le Corbusier" (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), architect, 1965; Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, 1968; Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett, novelist, 1969; Halle Selassie, deposed Emperor of Ethiopia, 1975; Earl Mountbatten of Burma, murdered by the IRA 1979; Mrs Martin, 1919; Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar lost the Duchy of Franconia at the Battle of Nordlingen, 1634; the first balloon ascent was made in Britain by James Tyler at Edinburgh, 1784; the Declaration of the Rights of Man was adopted by the French National Assembly, 1789; Napoleon defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Dresden, 1813; Algiers, then a refuge for Bar-

barian pirates, was bombarded by Lord Exmouth, 1816; the interior of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, was destroyed by fire, 1892; the Kellogg-Brundt Pact, an anti-war document, was signed by 15 nations, 1928; the first transmission of a television programme from the Continent was made by the BBC, 1950; the USSR launched Sputnik 3, carrying two dogs, 1958. Today is the Feast Day of St Caesarius of Arles, St David Lewis, Little St Hugh, St Marcellinus of Tomi, St Margaret the Barefooted, St Minnica and St Poem.

"Fair Game (iv): Velázquez, Philip IV hunting Wild Boar (La Tela Real)", 1pm.

Tate Gallery: Colin Cruise, "Home-Romance and Reality in 19th Century Domestic Genre Painting", 1pm.

British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "Animals in Ancient Egyptian Art", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery (guided tour): "Beneath the Surface: materials, techniques and studio practice", 1.30pm-1.50pm.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1.15pm.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith,

business

Ladbroke's price canters as punters place bets on good results

Some of the stock market's most avid punters must be a little surprised Ladbroke has survived as an independent company and is about to produce another set of results.

On numerous occasions in the past year the shares have enjoyed frenzied gallops as rumours of imminent takeover action have swirled around.

For a long while the Bass brewing group was seen as the most likely predator. Ladbroke's Hilton Hotels, ran the argument, would slot nicely with Bass's Holiday Inn chain and, Whilehall permitting, the Ladbroke betting shops and the Coral spread would create a powerful betting force.

But Bass became captivated by the thought of recapturing leadership of the UK's brewing and started what turned out to be protracted talks to buy the country's third-largest brewer, Carlsberg-Tetley.

Then it was the turn of the US Hilton Hotels Corporation

to take up the running. HHC owns the US Hilton chain; Ladbroke the international Hilton spread. At first it seemed Ladbroke would strike at HHC; then the story was turned on its head with HHC going for Ladbroke. The final - and more likely - version is a trading pact that offers some form of Hilton unity.

Shares of the betting and hotel group ended last week at their highest for three years. Takeover speculation is over far away, but it is Thursday's interim results that have provided much of the impetus. They are not expected to be outstanding. Merrill Lynch is looking for £6.3m (£56.5m) and an unchanged dividend. Some forecasts stretch to £70m.

But there could be some encouraging comments. Chief executive Peter George has been tidying the group and reducing borrowings. Texas Homecare, the do-it-yourself sheds chain, was sold to J

Sainsbury and many properties have been unloaded.

Ladbroke is concentrating on leisure. Its hotels should have joined in the dramatic revival the industry has experienced and, although betting shops are National Lottery casualties, there are signs that worst is over.

The shares at 207p are, however, a long way from the 333p peak achieved in 1989 when Cyril Stein, now endeavouring to build his own up-market hotel empire, ruled the roost. Profits have been under pressure as Ladbroke reshaped. Last year they reached £121.3m and Merrill is looking for a peak this year - it is going for £157m. Kleinwort Benson is up £165m.

After their remarkable display last week there must be a temptation for shares to pause for breath. But many in the market have been heard to mutter that now Footsie has conquered the 3,900 barrier

there will be no stopping a gallop to the magical 4,000.

After drifting aimlessly since hitting a peak in April, the market has suddenly got up steam,

STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

moving into uncharted territory. Trading has often been thin and many of the legendary big-hitters are still on holiday. But there is no denying shares are exuding confidence. They seem, for once, to be able to ignore unhelpful developments and dwell happily on more bullish events.

The secret of lower interest rates is in the air and the feel-good factor could become an old-fashioned election boom.

Some brave souls have for weeks been forecasting Footsie will end the month at more than 4,000. Their predictions once looked outrageously hopeful; but is not longer the case. And forecasters on 4,000 for the year-end could even be

wondering whether they will be accused of being too cautious.

Ladbroke is only one of three blue chips reporting on Thursday. The others are Rolls-Royce and Reckitt & Colman. Rolls' interim results will be distorted by provisions relating to closures and write-offs following its decision to withdraw from its Parsons turbine business. NatWest Securities looks for pre-excepted profits of £75m compared with £47m. Some forecasts stretch to £100m.

Jo Reedman at NatWest will focus on the after-market for civil aviation spares. "If there is evidence of a sustainable increase in aircraft spares, then there could be further upside for the share price," she said.

Reckitt & Colman is another to be repositioned. It has sold its food and soft-drink businesses and intends to evolve as a world leader in household goods with such products as

Dettol and Harpic. Interim profits could reflect the re-shaping.

Retailer WH Smith is another to undergo a revamping exercise. It has been receiving intensive treatment from Bill Cockburn, the chief executive who used to head the Post Office.

The shares have been surprisingly strong as the market has gleefully anticipated the fruits of his labours. The benefits will not filter through when the group reports its first loss tomorrow. The figures will be heavily distorted by the Cockburn impact with profits emerging at perhaps £85m (against £115.3m), before becoming overwhelmed by exceptional charges of around £14.5m is expected.

Cairn Energy's figures will attract little interest; its supporters will be more fascinated by developments at its Bangladesh operation. Perhaps the company will have more striking progress to report?

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

LADBROKE GROUP

Price 207p **Yield** 3.5% **P/E** 12.5 **P/B** 1.15 **Dividend** 10.5p **Rating** Buy **Target Price** 230p

Key Figures

Turnover £1.2bn

Profit £121.3m

EPS 11.8p

Dividend 10.5p

EPS 1

14 business

THE INDEPENDENT • Tuesday 27 August 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

Festival fireworks: Grade vows to fight sell-off all the way as merchant banker warns that C4 is far from being a goldmine

Channel 4 sale 'would raise less than £1bn'

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Channel 4 would be worth less than £1bn, half the much-publicised earlier estimates, if it were privatised, according to a senior City merchant banker.

Anthony Fry, of BZW, presented the much-reduced valuation to delegates at the Edinburgh International Television Festival yesterday, adding: "Clearly, privatising Channel 4 would not be the goldmine that everybody appears to think."

The prospect of privatisation has been recently floated by the Treasury as a way of raising revenues to fund tax cuts, and could form part of the next Conservative Party manifesto.

But Mr Fry warned: "Any hope of generating a multi-billion pound return for the Government from Channel 4 would have to come from its programming budget as a privatised company."

The likelihood that a privately owned Channel 4 would have to

pay a cash bid, taxes and a percentage of its revenue to the Treasury further reduces its attractiveness at the inflated prices so far discussed in the City, he said.

Separately, Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, made his most powerful public comment yet against privatisation, telling delegates in Edinburgh: "I'm angry and sad that the privatisation of Channel 4 is even on the political agenda somewhere between the Treasury and Downing Street. The board of Channel 4 is going to fight this all the way."

Mr Grade said Channel 4's special remit to cater to minority tastes could not survive privatisation. "You can certainly have a privatised Channel 4 or you can have Channel 4 with its full public service remit. You cannot have both."

The remit works because it is shared between Parliament, the regulators and the board of the channel. The whole purpose of Channel 4 is to operate as efficiently as possible and to

deliver the maximum possible resources to that common objective."

Mr Grade concluded his speech by calling on the Government to "dispel this nonsense. Channel 4 works, so can it please be left alone to get on with its job?"

He even made veiled threats that he and other senior executives might not stay with the channel: "If I wanted to work in the commercial sector I would have stayed at ITV or in America. I will fight with every breath in my body against the privatisation of this channel."

That view was disputed by Cento Veljanovski, partner at Case Associates, the management consultancy, who argued that Channel 4 could be privatised with or without its distinctive remit.

He added that the justification for privatisation had been provided by the very success of the channel.

The spectacular rise of Channel 4 in recent years, and the high-profile campaign led by Mr

Grade to amend the controversial payments the channel makes to ITV, together convinced the Government to consider the sell-off.

Last year, Channel 4 paid £75m to ITV, under the funding formula, it dictates that the channel must pay the ITV companies a proportion of revenues once its share of advertising reaches 14 per cent. Channel 4 now attracts more than 20 per cent.

Steve Morrison, chief operating officer of Granada Media Group, said that privatisation should be considered if Channel 4 did not change the way it currently scheduled programmes.

"Channel 4 ain't what it used to be," he said. "It has quite simply become a commercial wolf in a public service sheep's clothing."

He criticised the number of repeats, the big proportion of programming imported from the US and what he saw as a lack of commitment to regional programming.

"Channel 4 has really just be-

come Channel Three-and-a-Half," Mr Morrison said. He called on regulators to impose stricter conditions on the channel. "The onus is on those who wish to avoid privatisation to convince us that the channel can set back on its intended course," he said.

Photograph: Gerialt Lewis
Veiled threats: Michael Grade says that he and other executives might not stay on
ITV faces payments challenge

Paul Ormerod: Continental growth crisis

Interview: Peter Kysel of John Govett

Stock Market Week/Share prices

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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

ITV companies are to lobby the Independent Television Commission for changes to the way the television regulators' budget is financed, calling the present system "increasingly unfair and difficult to justify", writes Matthew Horsman.

The ITC, which regulates commercial television in the UK, had a budget in 1995 of £153.3m of which Channel 3, Channel 4 and Teletext companies contributed £11.3m.

By contrast, the cable and satellite companies, including BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster, paid £2m.

ITV is expected to argue that the disjunction between revenue shares for different channels and their licence fee payments to the ITC is particularly striking.

ITV and Channel 4 account for 72 per cent of total television revenue, but pay 86 per cent of the ITC's budget.

Cable and satellite account for 28 per cent of commercial revenues but pay just 14 per cent of the ITC's running costs.

"Put another way, the cable and satellite channels earn almost a third of the revenue of Channels 3 and 4, yet we pay the ITC seven times as much," the ITV companies write in a draft letter.

Putting
in the
of head

Lenders use loan deals to inflate profits

NIC CICUTI

Some of Britain's biggest mortgage lenders are boosting their financial returns by spreading out the cost of special incentives given to borrowers over several years.

By amortising mortgage discounts, cash-backs and other special deals paid to customers, building societies and some banks can announce profits that are tens of millions of pounds higher than their rivals.

Among lenders which amortise are Nationwide, Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies, together with Abbey National, which added £60m to its half-year results by spreading the effect of its incentives.

Those who prefer to be more conservative and take the hit of special deals in the first year include Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Yorkshire and Barclays Bank. Last week, Halifax Building Society said it had half-year profits were £6m down on what they might have been had discounts been amortised.

The practice has drawn criticism from Geoffrey Fitchew, chairman of the Building Societies Commission, the industry's regulator.

Speaking at the BSA conference in May, Mr Fitchew said: "The risk [is] that over time financial comparisons between different mortgage lenders will become opaque, where they follow different accounting conventions on material items in the financial statements."

The amortisation method in effect provides a more favourable impact on capital for what is economically the same transaction. We are considering whether this is creating an unfair disadvantage for lenders who take the hit up front."

However, lenders that amortise their deals claim the practice represents the effect of the

incentives as they actually happen each year.

Robert Jeens, the newly appointed group finance director at Woolwich Building Society, said that in the first half of this year, when it declared £183m in profits, some £45m of incentives paid to borrowers was amortised.

He said: "Our approach is to look at the whole locked-in returns over the several years in which we offer incentives."

This was done by imposing redemption penalties, which forced clients to return the incentives they had received if they repaid a mortgage early.

Andy Kuipers, assistant general manager at Northern Rock, said the problems of borrowers defaulting and lenders losing out in the event of a house price collapse on a similar scale as the early 1990s were minimal.

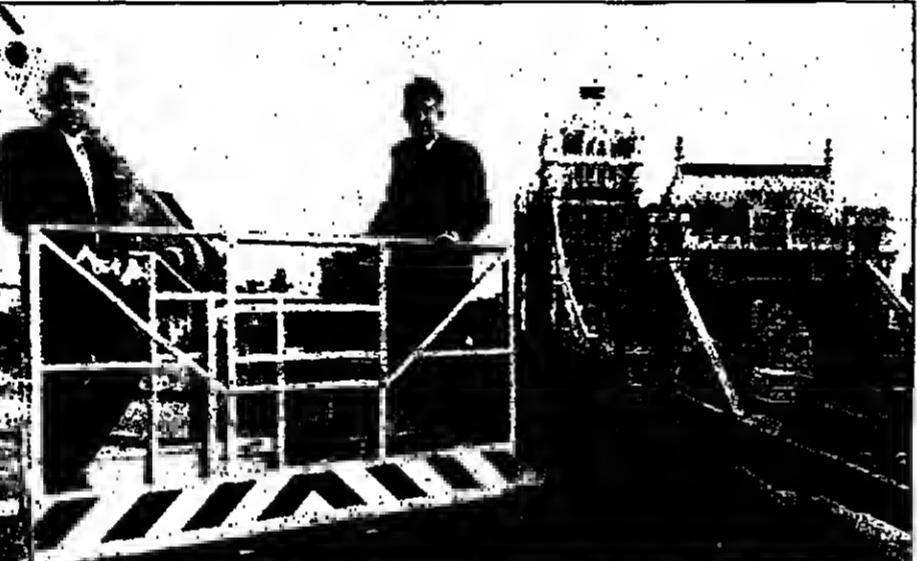
Many of the big incentives, such as cash-back deals, were available only to borrowers able to advance deposits of between 5 and 10 per cent.

Mark Pain, group financial controller at Abbey National, added that another reason why not all lenders amortised was because they might not have in place the complicated systems needed to do so.

However, a spokeswoman for Britannia said: "We write off any of our special discounts in year one, irrespective of how long they run for, because we don't feel it is appropriate to spread costs. Lenders who do this are relying on people keeping their mortgages with them, which is not guaranteed."

Yorkshire Building Society said it too behaved "prudently" and did not amortise, preferring to take a hit immediately, even though it estimated the effect was to reduce by £13m the £40m profits the Dutch aircraft maker.

News of 52 firm orders for the



Platform for a float: David Price, chairman (left), and David Shipman, finance director

Lavendon founder could scoop £6m

The flotation of Lavendon, which provides powered access equipment for important sporting events such as Wimbledon, is set to bring a windfall of up to £6m for its founder, David Price, who invested £300,000 in buying the business in 1992, writes Magnus Grimond.

Now the UK's biggest powered access group, Lavendon announced yesterday its intention to come to the stock market in an autumn placing which

would value the group at up to £30m. The company's self-propelled scissor and boom lifts and vehicle-mounted booms, which rise as high as 72 metres, have become familiar sights as television camera platforms at sporting occasions such as the Grand National and the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Yesterday, the trucks were rolling out from some of Lavendon's 1,400 depots to cover the British Masters golf championship at

Collingtree, near Northampton. The placing will raise between £2m and £12m for the company to finance expansion and realise the holding of CINV, the venture capital group that backed the original acquisition of the business.

It will also net a potential profit of more than £5.5m for Mr Price, a former systems analyst with IBM and divisional director with GKN, the engineering group.

The findings by BSI, the ven-

ture capital firm, in its latest sur-

vey of 459 companies from five

UK small businesses confident about future

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Further evidence that the economy is picking up came yesterday after it emerged that Britain's small businesses are some of the most confident in western Europe.

Optimism about the commercial environment has soared among British entrepreneurs in the first six months of this year, despite the increasingly cloudy outlook being faced by most of their colleagues on the Continent.

Although they expect the general economic situation to worsen, small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK are more positive in nearly every area which concerns their own activities.

There has been a surge in the numbers planning to increase investment in plant and machinery, and along with higher spending on marketing, research and development and training, more expect to raise additional finance in the next six months.

The findings by BSI, the venture capital firm, in its latest survey of 459 companies from five

western European countries, will be welcomed by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, coming as they do from the rest of the economy, with retail sales unexpectedly weak in July and the CBI reporting some improved demand for manufactured goods from a low base.

However, BSI's European enterprise index also contains a warning to Mr Clarke in his battles with the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, over interest rates.

Meanwhile, German entrepreneurs, despite being less negative on the prospects for the economy, are gloomier about the state of their own businesses. Optimism about their prospects has fallen from a rating of 17 to 7 and although 46 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses expect to raise more finance, up from 19 per cent before, concerns over competition have increased sharply.

Charles Richardson of BSI said the UK picture was looking quite positive: "There is something of a more confident mood in many businesses. I don't think we're back to boom, boom times, but they are investing more."

The economic index has

slumped there by 9 points to

-64, which compares with a 7-point improvement to -17 in the UK. French confidence about the prospects for businesses is the lowest of any of the five countries, slipping from 10 to just 4 on the index, whereas in the UK there was a rise of 14 points to 22.

There are growing fears of competition among French businesses and, more than in any of the other countries, an expectation that prices will fall.

Meanwhile, German entrepreneurs, despite being less negative on the prospects for the economy, are gloomier about the state of their own businesses. Optimism about their prospects has fallen from a rating of 17 to 7 and although 46 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses expect to raise more finance, up from 19 per cent before, concerns over competition have increased sharply.

Charles Richardson of BSI said the UK picture was looking quite positive: "There is something of a more confident mood in many businesses. I don't think we're back to boom, boom times, but they are investing more."

The UK survey results contrast sharply with most of those from the four other countries covered, with the French the most gloomy. Small businessmen in France have replaced their German counterparts as the most pessimistic about the state of the economy, 31 says.

The economic index has

slumped there by 9 points to

New jet creates 400 jobs at Short's

JACQUIN TORONTO

Up to 400 new jobs were secured at Short Brothers, the Belfast aero-engineering group, after around US\$1.8bn of advance orders were announced for the new Global Express executive jet yesterday. It was also revealed that up to 500 jobs could be created if the company wins work for a regional jet to be launched by Bombardier, Shorts' Canadian parent.

The news comes as a big shot in the arm for the Belfast-based group, which was forced to lay off 700 workers in the wake of the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker.

News of 52 firm orders for the

future for the aircraft. This involves the forward fuselage, horizontal stabiliser, engine nacelles, and a large percentage of the jet's composite components.

Global Express will create up to 400 jobs at the plant when the jet is produced in around 18 months, bringing the workforce on the programme to 700.

Roy McNulty, chairman of Short's, said the Global Express programme was extremely important to the company. The jet is not our largest aerospace project but has the potential to become so. News that 52 orders have been received for the jet before anyone has even seen it is an indication of its long-term future."

Bombardier chairman and chief executive officer Laurent

Grimond came as BSI confirmed that Short's was likely to play a major part in its proposed new regional jet, the RJX-70. "We are in discussion with Short's about the possibility of manufacturing the fuselage, engine nacelles and composites. A decision will be taken before the end of the year." If Short's is successful in securing the RJX-70 work, it would create up to 500 new jobs.

Other British players in the Global Express programme are Lucas Industries, which will supply the electrical power generation and distribution system; Messier-Dowty, which developed and manufactured the landing gear; and a BMW-Rolls Royce alliance, which will supply the jet's BR 710 engines.

Jury's Hotel Group, the Irish hotel chain, said that trading levels for the first two months of the current tax year were well ahead of last year. Jury's chairman, Walter Beatty, told shareholders yesterday: "Almost four months into the year, the strong pattern of trading has been sustained."

Lufthansa, the German airline, said it expected to be able to match 1995 earnings in the 1996 business year despite a DM70m (£28m) fall in first-half pre-tax profit to DM119m. The company also forecast stronger 1996 sales, predicting a 5 per cent rise. Its first-half sales rose by 6.6 per cent to DM9.8bn.

Foster's Brewing Group, the Australian brewer, forecast continued solid earnings growth after announcing a 2 per cent rise in net profit to A\$293.3m (£150m) for the year to 30 June.

Swiss Re, the reinsurance group, said it would comment in the next few days on rumours that it is set to buy Mercantile & General, the reinsurance business owned by Prudential Corporation, for £1.5bn. The Pru said in June that it was seeking a partial flota-

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PAUL ORMEROD

'Britain's experience since 1979 has hardly been impressive, yet in real terms per capita national income has risen at the same rate as western Germany's, and faster than France's.'

Germany's, and faster than France's'

Don't follow the European model: it's collapsing

The economies of Continental Europe face a serious structural crisis. Unemployment is at historically high levels, and rises almost inexorably. The western German unemployment rate is already above the British rate of about 8 per cent. In France and Italy it is over 12 per cent, in Finland 18 per cent and in Spain 22 per cent. The British government is often accused, with good reason, of massaging the figures, but governments everywhere find the temptation irresistible. In Germany, for example, almost 2 million people are kept on the dole figures by "work" schemes. In France, the nationalised industries such as SNCF and Air France are in effect bankrupt, and employment levels are preserved only by massive subsidies.

Growth rates everywhere in Europe are faltering. Britain's experience since 1979 has hardly been impressive, yet in real terms per capita national income has risen at the same rate as western Germany's, and faster than France's. This represents a dramatic break in the trend that had been in place for over a century. From the 1870s to 1979, the big European economies grew more rapidly than the UK, but since 1979 this has ceased to be the case. Comparisons of growth rates over short periods of time can easily be manipulated by taking economies at different stages of the short-term business cycle, but the 17 years since 1979 span at least two full cycles and so form a reliable basis on which to compare performance.

This is not necessarily to hold up Britain

as a model for the rest of the European Union follow. Many problems remain, not least of which is the dramatic widening of inequality that has taken place. But it makes much less sense to argue that Britain should now emulate the European – or "Rhenish" – model of capitalism, for it is precisely this latter model whose performance is collapsing. At the heart of the European problem is a crisis of profitability. Compared with a decade ago there has in recent years been some recovery of profitability in Europe, but one which is far from sufficient to underpin a sustainable growth rate of more than 2 per cent a year.

The origins of the crisis go back some 30 years. The late 1960s and early 1970s saw a sharp rise in the share of national income going to the labour force, and a corresponding erosion of profitability. The rise was made up of a combination of rapid increases in real wages in excess of productivity growth, and of rises in the costs of employing labour. Europe's problems were compounded by the global shocks of the mid-1970s, but the fall in profitability, the necessary condition for a deterioration in the sustainable growth rate, was already in place.

Orthodox economic theory

says that this should have

carried no consequences for

the growth rate. In both its standard neo-classical and notorious "post neo-classical endogenous" variants, conventional theory assumes that savings are translated into investment in an effortless way, regardless of the level of profitability. Quite remarkably, profits are virtually written out of the script. But I prefer Hamlet, with the Prince as part of the cast: profitability has always been the key driving force of capitalism, the great early economists such as Smith, Ricardo and Marx recognised.

Comparing average growth rates of the past 20 years or so with those of the 1950s and 1960s, some deterioration is entirely to be expected. In the aftermath of the war, the capital stocks of the European economies were ravaged, but the skills of the labour force remained intact. The process of rebuilding

the capital stock, taking the opportunity to copy the technology of the world leader, the United States, enabled very rapid growth rates; of 5 per cent a year and more, to be achieved. But this catch-up process was bound to come to an end at some point.

Over and above this entirely natural slowing of the medium-term growth rate has been the impact of the erosion of profitability. The chart plots the changes in the averages of annual GDP growth rates and the share of labour in national income in the largest 18 OECD economies between the 1960-73 period, and the period since 1973. So, for example, the observation for Japan at the bottom right-hand corner shows that comparing the 1974-95 averages with those of 1960-73, GDP growth in Japan has been over 5 percentage points lower, and the share of labour in national income almost 12 percentage points higher. Each of these periods is sufficiently long to embrace several short-term economic cycles, so the comparisons are not distorted by choice of year.

The striking feature of the chart is the clear negative relationship between these two factors. The larger the increase in labour's share of national income (and, as a corollary, the greater the fall in the share of profits), the more marked has been the fall in the growth rate. It is a straightforward matter to apply sophisticated statistical methods to confirm the validity of this relationship.

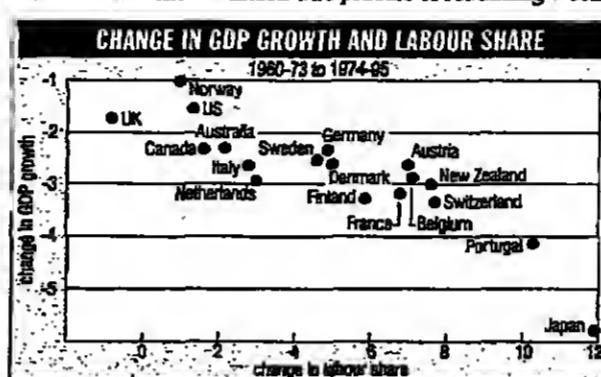
At the top left-hand corner of the chart are the three economies where the erosion of the profit share has been the least, and where in consequence the fall in the growth rate has been the smallest. The Norwegian experience is obviously due to North Sea oil, which represents a substantial proportion of the overall economy in Norway. In the two Anglo-Saxon economies, the profit share has been protected primarily through policies to promote "flexible" labour markets, which have helped to maintain the growth rate, albeit at the expense of a widening of the distribution of income.

Over the last 20 years annual average growth in the continental EU countries has been 1 percentage point lower than it would otherwise have been because of the lack of profitability.

It is here that the real cost of high payroll taxes is seen. The well-being of all Europeans is worsened by the resulting reduction in the sustainable growth rate. And in many, but not all, countries, lower growth has been the prime reason for the endemic rise in unemployment.

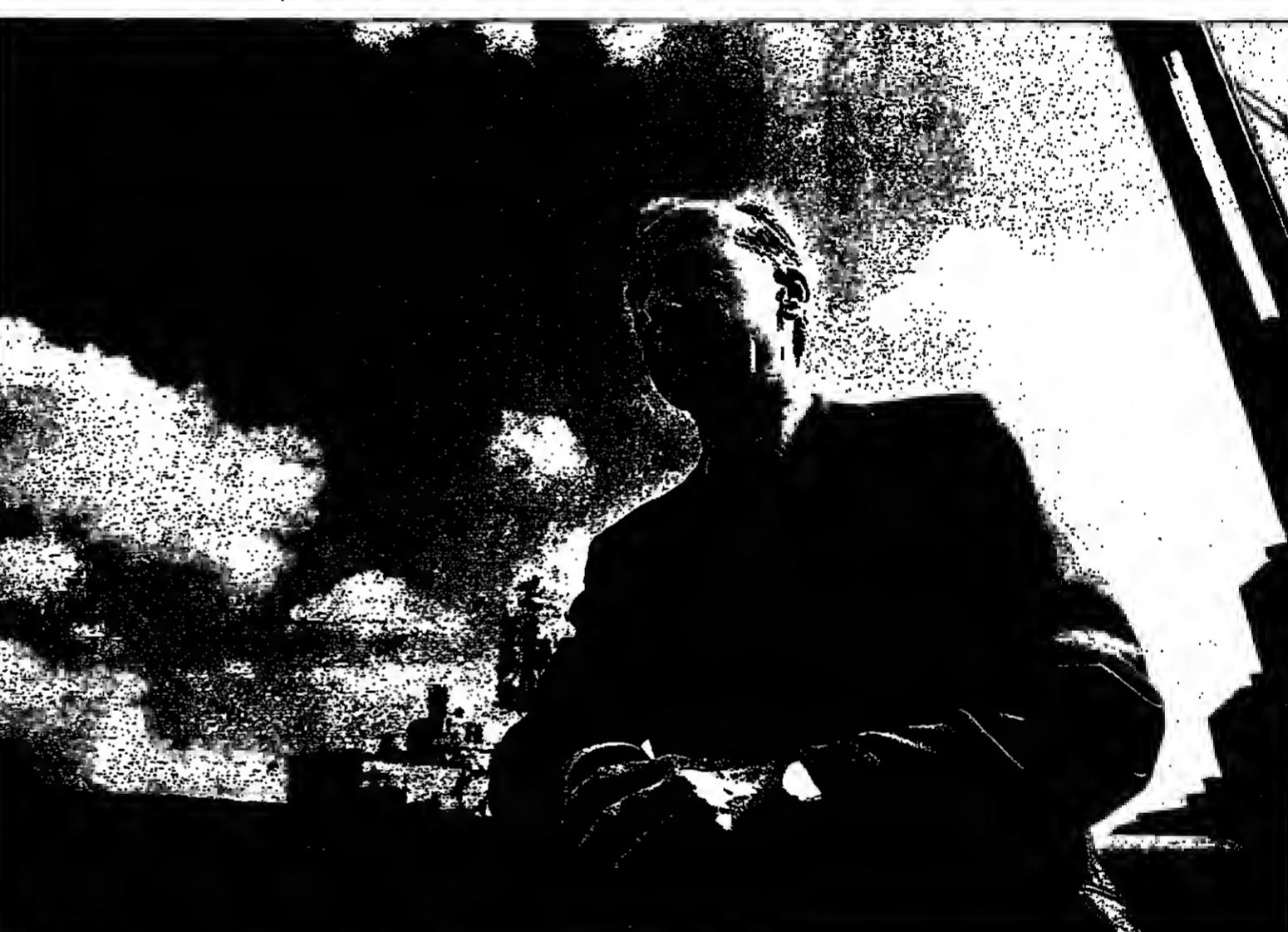
Amazingly, most liberal commentators continue to eulogise the European model and urge its adoption in Britain. But they are living in the past. The crisis in profitability will continue to deliver low growth and high unemployment in the Continental economies.

Paul Ormerod is chairman of Post-Orthodox Economics, an economic consultancy. He was previously a forecaster at the Henley Centre.



The head of a new fund launched by John Govett tells Tom Stevenson why he has turned bullish on eastern Europe's prospects

Putting his trust in the profitability of heading east



Compelling argument: Peter Kysel predicts that growth in the east will far outstrip that of western Europe

Photograph: Paul Bulley

It would be hard to imagine anyone better placed to set up an eastern European investment fund than Peter Kysel. On holiday in Wales in 1968 he turned on the radio to hear that his native Czechoslovakia had been overrun by Soviet troops.

As he was listening to the reports, underfed Russian soldiers were emptying the cupboard at his grandfather's holiday home outside Prague. It seemed a good opportunity to complete his education with an engineering and economics degree from Oxford.

After spells at Charter Consolidated, Touche Rickett and Lloyds Merchant Bank, he watched from a distance the collapse of communism in Europe and the velvet revolution at home, before heading back east in 1992 to advise the Slovak Minister of Finance on how to regulate the country's new capital markets.

The following year he moved to Komercni Banka, the largest bank in the Czech Republic, as managing director of its investment banking division. If anyone has a feel for the fast-emerging capitalist economies of the former eastern bloc it should be Mr Kysel.

His enthusiasm for the investment opportunities in eastern Europe now has an outlet in the New Europe Investment Company, a fund he is launching for John Govett, the 80 per cent-owned associate of Allied Irish Banks. Investors who have burned their fingers in a string of hyped markets around the world in recent years will take some persuading of the invest-

ment case. But Mr Kysel thinks the argument is compelling. "Before deciding to launch the fund we had to be convinced of the answers to four questions. Was the macro-economic environment favourable? Was there anything actually to invest in? Did we have the skills to take advantage of the opportunities? And did we have the right investment policy to maximise our success?" Mr Kysel said.

As far as the economic background is concerned, he sees all the countries in the former So-

cialist and eastern Europe is often mistakenly compared with the emergence of Third World economies," he said. "Experience shows the conditions and the speed of transformation are more similar to the reconstruction of the German economy after the last war."

Why have they been so successful? "The most radical reformers have been the most successful in achieving transformation into functioning capitalist economies. Market reforms in the region have been reinforced by significantly undervalued currencies, by work forces with first world education

and skills who are paid Third World wages, by rapid productivity improvements and by their close proximity to the major consumer markets."

The next prerequisite, a sensible universe of companies in which to invest, has been given an enormous boost by mass privatisation programmes that have created 125,000 new privately owned companies. With many shares in the hands of private individuals, they are likely to be liquid, tradeable investments. Certainly, there are more than enough available shares to create a sensible portfolio of say 50 shares.

Mr Kysel is too modest to say as much but he is also plainly confident in his ability to run the fund. During his most recent spell in Prague, he was responsible for listing the first company on the stock exchange, he organised the first rights issue, the first bond issue and the first pro-

ject financing. He was on the ground during the years in the early 1990s when "there was no point in throwing money at those markets and losing it" and believes he has called the moment to turn bullish.

The key to profiting from eastern European markets, Mr Kysel believes, is to understand their structure and allocate assets appropriately. More than two-thirds of their capitalisation lies in slow-growth energy, utility and financial groups which offer at best limited participation in the rapid growth of the

region. The best opportunities for growth lie in medium-sized companies serving export markets or the fast-developing consumer markets at home and it is these companies Govett's new fund will target. There are also good opportunities in capital goods manufacturers and service companies. Spotting those requires an experienced presence on the ground, rather than the trained fund managers usually sent to cut their teeth on emerging markets.

Even Mr Kysel's enthusiasm, however, does not shut his eyes to the risks: "A big difficulty is how the rules are applied and enforced. In the Czech Republic they will be applied bureaucratically, but in Russia ... they are, well, more laissez faire about these things."

He also notes the political risks of a country like Russia where there are 140 nationalities often at each other's throats, limited liquidity in some smaller capitalisation stocks and an unavoidable currency risk. But he remains incurably optimistic about the region and the potential of its companies.

South-east Asia ready for battle with speculators

VIEW FROM HONG KONG

Countries have an impressive pool of foreign currency reserves, estimated to have reached US\$420bn as of September 1995. The considerable liquidity of the currencies belonging to the export-led states of South-east Asia and their link to the US dollar make them an obvious target for speculators.

Thailand is vulnerable, despite its foreign exchange reserves of some US\$40bn. Short-term foreign debt, mostly

in the private sector, exceeds this amount and has been growing rapidly. In addition the current account balance remains in the red. These factors led the US credit rating agency Moody's to warn, in May, that Thailand was vulnerable to "financial shock" and state that it was contemplating downgrading its prime-1 rating for sovereign short-term debt.

The Moody's report sent shockwaves throughout the

region. The best opportunities for growth lie in medium-sized companies serving export markets or the fast-developing consumer markets at home and it is these companies Govett's new fund will target. There are also good opportunities in capital goods manufacturers and service companies. Spotting those requires an experienced presence on the ground, rather than the trained fund managers usually sent to cut their teeth on emerging markets.

Hong Kong, for example, has six repo agreements, including one with Thailand. Singapore also has an arrangement with Thailand but kept away from the Hong Kong meeting. This may be because it feels strong enough to act alone. It houses the world's fourth-largest forex market and its currency is among the four most widely traded Asian currencies, alongside the Thai baht, the Indonesian rupiah and the Malaysian ringgit.

Most Asian currencies are largely tied to the United States dollar. In addition, the Asian

Thai financial community and drew an angry response in some quarters. However the people taking most care of the currency speculators.

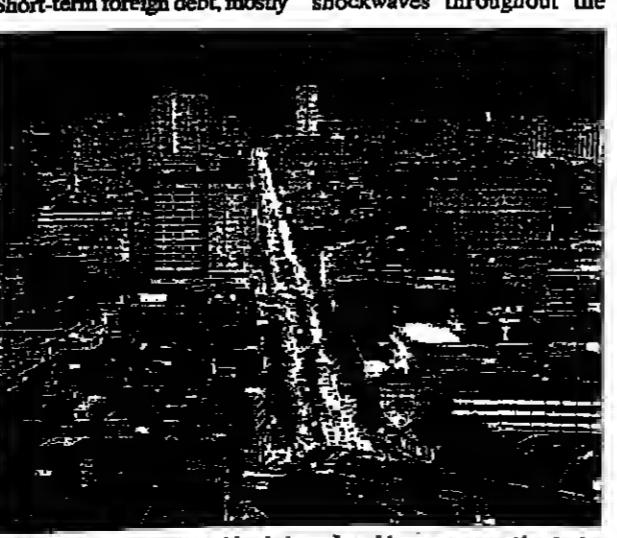
A senior central bank official, Thirachai Phuvanabarnabula, told the dealers' meeting that foreign speculative trading on the baht in South-east Asia amounted to about US\$1.2bn a day. However the

Thais authorities are more wary of the massive US hedge funds which often move in herd-like fashion and have shown an acerbic interest in the Thai baht.

A central bank official said the authorities had a good idea who the speculators were but preferred to deal with the problem by creating an unfavourable environment for attacks on the

region. The best opportunities for growth lie in medium-sized companies serving export markets or the fast-developing consumer markets at home and it is these companies Govett's new fund will target. There are also good opportunities in capital goods manufacturers and service companies. Spotting those requires an experienced presence on the ground, rather than the trained fund managers usually sent to cut their teeth on emerging markets.

However, even more firmly based currencies, such as the Hong Kong dollar, backed by a foreign exchange buffer of US\$60bn, are vulnerable to speculators. Earlier in the month, *Sunday Business* published an erroneous report that the currency speculator George Soros had taken short positions in the local currency. As a result the Hong Kong dollar, tied to the US dollar at a rate of HK\$7.8 to US\$, fell as low as HK\$7.74. Every movement of a fraction of a percentage point



Standing tall: Thailand is determined to preserve the baht

spells the shift of millions of dollars and does so on the basis of unsubstantiated rumour.

Earlier this year, Hong Kong's financial secretary, Donald Tsang, warned speculators against attacking the Hong Kong dollar, pointing to the heavy losses incurred by speculators when the currency came under attack early last year.

Some of the big shifts in Asian currency values can be explained by something other than pure speculation. Nevertheless, the movements can be dramatic. In the past five years the Singapore dollar has appreciated by about 25 per cent while the Indonesian rupiah depreciated by about the same amount.

The focus on Asian currencies is likely to become more widespread as restrictions on the convertibility of some controlled currencies are relaxed. Taiwan and South Korea are moving towards a more liberal regime and China is making pledges to make the renminbi convertible. Even Vietnam, which lags well behind in the convertibility stakes, is saying that controls will be further relaxed. If nothing else, these moves will give currency speculators more choice.

STEPHEN VINES

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sport

Sunday could have turned out a lot worse than it did

What a result! No one at Rothmans-Williams-Renault had expected Ferrari to be such a threat in the Belgian Grand Prix. Michael Schumacher's win was, perhaps, an example of how Jacques Villeneuve and I had been so intensely focused on competing against ourselves for the drivers' championship that maybe we took our eyes off the competition.

The crucial aspect from my point of view is that I came away from Spa-Francorchamps with a couple of points and Jacques managed to score just four more than me. That was a better result than it might have been. At one stage during Sunday's race I expected Jacques to win. I was quite surprised when they told me on the radio that he had actually finished second.

From where I was, some way down the order, it had been impossible to see exactly what was going on. I had been told that Jacques was running behind Schumacher and I assumed

Jacques was bound to overtake the Ferrari eventually and win the race. From my position – ninth place at the time – everything was looking dire, particularly as I was struggling a bit with the spare car.

I made the switch not long before the start because of concern about an incident which had taken place during the warm-up earlier in the day. I had spun off the track and about half an hour before the race was due to start it suddenly occurred to me that the car had been in gear with the engine running when I had spun backwards. We looked at the incident on the video and the slow-motion replay showed the rear wheels make three revolutions in reverse while the car was in second gear. In effect, the wheels were taking the engine in the wrong way.

I discussed the possible consequences of the spin with my Renault engineer, Denis Chevrier. It was clear from him that reversing the engine

was not something which Renault had much experience of, and why should they – they are designed with only forward rotation in mind. So I decided to take the spare car. More than anything else I had to be sure of finishing, particularly as Jacques would have the advantages of starting the 13th round of the championship from pole position.

I made a better start than I expected, considering there was water on my side of the track, but I was very surprised when David Coulthard's McLaren shot past me on the long climb up the hill. That put me back to fourth place. Although the handling of the spare car was quite good I found I had too much understeer, particularly when running in close company. I was preparing to have small changes made to the car during my first pit stop when I came across an accident which, indirectly, would change the course of the race for the Williams team.



DAMON HILL

Jos Verstappen had gone off the road in a big way. I came around the corner to find tyres from the protective wall bouncing and rolling across the track. There were hits of debris everywhere and I had no alternative but to brake hard to avoid the tyres that were rolling across the

track. But in order to miss the tyres I had to run over a large piece of suspension that was lying on the track. Thankfully, it didn't do any damage to me or the car. It was no surprise to see the appearance of the safety car, behind which we would have to run while all the wreckage was cleared.

This coincided almost exactly the same time the pit stops were due and I received a message to come in from Adrian Newey. As I headed towards the pit lane, the entrance of which bypasses the chicane, and just before I actually got to the point where the pit-lane barrier starts, I was suddenly told to stay out.

This meant I couldn't rejoin the track directly and I had to work my way through a little chicane and then be held by a marshal until the track was clear. That cost me two places as Mika Hakkinen and Gerhard Berger went through. By the time I finally made my pit stop and rejoined

I was in 13th place, at the back of the queue trailing along behind the safety car. I looked in my mirror and could see just one car behind me so, as far as I was concerned, I was as good as last.

I

made up some places during the final phase and the car felt much better. Berger was pushing me hard in the closing stages so, all in all, I was very fortunate to get those two points at the end of such an eventful day. With three races left to run Jacques has reduced my championship lead by four points to 13.

The outcome of Sunday's race in terms of points was the same as the pair of us finishing first and second. On reflection, had Jacques made his first pit stop on schedule, he probably would have won the race and I would have finished third. That would have meant that he would have gained six points on me rather than four. Quite honestly, Sunday could have turned out a lot worse than it did.

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Excitement boils over at Ferrari

DERICK ALLSOP
reports from Spa-Francorchamps

Michael Schumacher was in full flow to the huddle of journalists and took no heed of the mobile phone ringing in the pocket of an Italian reporter.

"Pronto... si."

"It's for you," the reporter said, pressing the phone into Schumacher's hand. "It's the president."

"Hello... thanks... my pleasure."

"He's unbelievable," Schumacher said, handing back the phone. "You don't see the president of another company being so interested in Formula One."

But then it is difficult to imagine another president like Luca di Montezemolo and another company like Ferrari. This has been a generally frustrating and embarrassing season for their Formula One team and the merciless Italian media have intensified their discomfiture.

Schumacher's masterful victory in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix changed the mood at a stroke, and for the PR-conscious Di Montezemolo it was an opportunity too good to miss.

The mood is likely to be turned into rampant euphoria by Di Montezemolo's compatriots over the next two weeks, reaching a frenzied climax of anticipation at the Italian Grand Prix. Schumacher realised that, and the concern became evident in his countenance.

"I am quite worried about Monza," he said. "Especially after winning this race. Expectations will be high. I feel a little uneasy. I'm not sure we'll be able to do the same job as here. I'm afraid we will not be competitive. The people then become hysterical if things go

wrong. Please keep it calm," he exhorted the Italian journalists. He should know they cannot.

His first season with the Italian team – for that read Team Italia – ought to have given him a clear enough picture of the Ferrari phenomenon. And Monza will be bedlam.

"It is always like this in life," he said philosophically. "There are good things and not so good things. I feel that people are giving me respect but they are so emotional. They lost control. They like to kiss you and take you."

He was referring to an incident at a recent test, when an admirer had an apparently irresistible compulsion to lounge at Schumacher as he posed for photographers, and planted a kiss on him.

"He could at least have shaved," the champion joked. "And, anyway, it wouldn't have been so bad if it had been a girl."

But bave not the Germans also gone wild for Schumacher? At this race they had turned up in their scores of thousands, as they had elsewhere throughout Europe, spreading the campsite across the Ardennes landscape as never before. We had known Mansell mania; we had seen Senna's fan club all around the world, yet nothing like this. It makes the Germany of the 1930s curiously easy to comprehend.

"Yes," he conceded, "also Germans, but not in the same way. I am not so sure of the Italians."

Schumacher has never overtly courted the public. He enjoys the support, and patently revels in it. Hero worship, however, he finds difficult to cope with. He recoils when people touch and grab him. He craves just to be one of the people, yet he knows it is no longer possi-

ble. That is why his traditional, "impromptu" walk into the woods here to meet his fans has become a stage-managed production.

For all his reservations about life with Ferrari, Schumacher is already well down the road to negotiating an extension of his contract to the end of 1998. He insists money is not the issue. It is thought he is seeking another \$10m (£6.5m) a year on top of his current \$25m, but then

money does not appear to be an issue with Ferrari either. He maintains he is more concerned with "other details".

Those may well include the identity of his team-mate. He is content to keep Eddie Irvine alongside him, arguing the benefits of continuity and understanding. Besides, he said, he had always been quicker than his team-mates. "I could try to slow down," he added.

There is, however, a lobby in

Italian circles for a stronger second driver who might enable them to aspire to the constructors' championship as well as the driver's title in future seasons.

No less a source than Gianni Agnelli, patriarch of the Fiat empire, has fuelled suggestions that Irvine could yet be dropped for next season by remarking on the talent of Mika Hakkinen, whose contract with McLaren-Mercedes expires at the end of the year. As an ex-

perienced observer of Ferrari affairs pointed out, Agnelli is not noted for making gratuitous statements.

Despite the seemingly endless test sessions, Ferrari have had at Monza – they were at work again there yesterday – Schumacher implies Williams-Renault should be better equipped for the Italian Grand Prix. Over, then, to Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve to resume their championship

tussle. But you cannot help feel Schumacher will still interfere with Williams if the title is decided.

Given the cost of keeping Schumacher, it is perhaps convenient for Ferrari that Marlboro, one of their sponsors, are ending their 23-year association with McLaren after this season. The Woking-based team yesterday announced a five-year deal involving another tobacco brand, West.

Several drivers were slowed by the incident but Leslie managed to pick his way through the debris to take the lead, pursued by Biela, Roberto Ravaglia (BMW), Rickard Rydell (Volvo) and Peter Kox who was masking his BTCC debut for BMW.

The Total Cup for privateers was won by Toyota's Lee Brookes, whose only real rival was Matt Neal in a Ford after Richard Kaye's Vauxhall failed to start.

RFU considers rival tournament

David Llewellyn
reports on plans for an alternative to the Five Nations

society member in the latest RFU Handbook.

An RFU committee member said last night he felt sure that Twickenham would seriously consider the possibility of granting membership to the Welsh clubs in the event of a breakaway from Cardiff, with a view to staging an alternative home international tournament to become at least a possibility.

There would even be money for such a venture, since BSkyB could not doubt be persuaded to offer the deals they had originally put to the other Home Unions and the respective club organisations of each country.

It is not inconceivable that some England-based Scottish players would be able to form a representative XV to participate in a joint Epruc-RFU international tournament. Since some 13 of Ireland's first-choice XV and a large number of

squad members from last season are already contracted to English clubs for the new season and the near future, it is unlikely those clubs would be willing to release them for the proposed Four Nations tournament involving Wales, France, Scotland and Ireland. The pieces are in place for an alternative home international tournament to become at least a possibility.

The announcement by the RFU chairman, Vernon Pugh, that there would be no inaugural Anglo-Welsh club tournament prompted Deshayes to say: "We feel that the Anglo-Welsh event is a very important and valid competition, and it is certainly one that we would like to preserve. We shall be showing complete solidarity with the Welsh clubs on that."

It would certainly be attractive, since the bulk of the British Isles' leading players would be involved – including every first-choice Englandman. The French clubs had indicated their interest in such a scheme to club representatives some months ago, and yesterday Kim Deshayes, the chief executive of Epruc, which meets today to discuss this latest turn of events, said: "It is fair to say we have to explore all options. Obviously we are providing the players and we want to be in control of our own destiny."

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"This is a most exciting time in Scottish rugby, with our top players now being asked to treat their sport as their full-time profession – with all the added commitment that will involve. It will have a direct and beneficial impact on skills and fitness levels," Crichton said.

The SRU said they will announce the names of players who accept contracts, but they will not disclose details of individual deals.

SRU offers 56 full-time contracts

The Scottish Rugby Union has offered 56 full-time contracts to 56 players as part of its plan to introduce professional rugby into Scotland.

Players who accept full-time employment will receive a basic salary of between £20,000 and £50,000 per annum. There will be additional match fees and a win bonus scheme covering the major club competitions and international matches.

Most contracts are for three years, although a small number are for one year, recognising the importance of continuity and building a strong squad for the 1999 Rugby World Cup.

The contracts have been overseen by Ken Crichton, the SRU's staffing convenor. He described the payments as "realistic and fair, in accordance with the principle of trying to keep our best players in Scotland."

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Holmes' third gold caps British success

Paralympic Games

Britain gained their 39th and final gold medal of the 10-day competition at the 10th Paralympic Games in Atlanta when the swimmer Christopher Holmes won the men's 50 metres freestyle.

It was an impressive haul but not one to breed complacency in the team, whose chief de mission, Tony Sainsbury, said: "We can do even better next time."

For Holmes, it was a third Paralympics. His medal helped Britain to pip Spain for fourth place overall.

The United States topped the table with 46 gold medals, 46 silver and 65 bronze, Australia were second with 42 golds and Germany third on 40.

Sainsbury was delighted with the team's performance. "I said after Barcelona [in 1992] we would need to have a wider spread of medals if we were to maintain and develop our position as one of the top nations in the world. I think we have done that and I don't think we've reached our full potential yet, which probably has something to do with the age of some of the members of the team."

"I've been around quite a long time and this is the best team I've ever worked with. I can only see a great future for the British Paralympic movement if the promises being made by all sorts of agencies are fulfilled over the next four years."

The SRU said they will announce the names of players who accept contracts, but they will not disclose details of individual deals.

Athletics and swimming

emerged as Britain's strongest sports. There were 42 medals in athletics, including 12 golds, seven of which came with world records.

Steve Payton, who has cerebral palsy, showed all his sprinting prowess with golds at 100m, 200m and 400m in the men's T37 class, while the partially-sighted middle-distance runner Noel Thatcher showed the benefit of spending the past 12 months receiving guidance from Japan's top coaches with superb wins at 10,000m and 5,000m. In winning the former, he lowered the world record by 50 seconds despite a stress fracture in his left shin.

The injury did rule Thatcher out of the marathon, in which the partially-sighted runners Steve Brunt and Mark Farnell finished with silvers apiece in the B2 and B3 categories.

At the aquatic centre there was a haul of 48 medals, including 16 golds – seven of them with world records. Apart from three golds for the partially-sighted Holmes, another three went to Stockport's Sarah Bailey, in the women's 100m backstroke S10, 100m breaststroke SB10 and 200m individual medley SM10.

In a combative wheelchair basketball competition, Britain's men lifted their world ranking second but had their gold medal chances scuppered by a rampant Australian team, who beat them 78-63 in the final.

Medals table, Sporting Digest, page 19

Dwyer struggling to knock Leicester into shape

PAUL STEPHENS

Leicester 22
Agen 28

Leicester were given a foretaste of what to expect when the European Cup starts as they were handed many number of sharp lessons in creativity and defensive organisation while being comprehensively outplayed by Agen in the final of the inaugural International Challenge Cup at Welford Road.

For future tournaments to be

judged a success and taken seriously, clubs will have to field something like full-strength teams and not treat the event like some glorified training exercise. Even with a £57,500 prize fund, some of the rugby resembled nothing more than touch-and-pass. Agen took the contest more seriously than the others but, even so, they made eight substitutions in a one-sided final.

Whatever doubts may exist about the value of such events, Bob Dwyer, Leicester's newly-installed director of coaching,

was left in no doubt about the size of the task confronting him as he attempts to reshape Leicester's midfield to make them fully competitive.

With fresh half-backs and a new centre pairing, Dwyer is short of time as he prepares for the match against Saracens on Saturday. "We wanted to win," Dwyer said, "but Agen were better prepared and had already played a lot of games. But we've no complaints, at least we finished full of fight."

In fact, Leicester finished with a penalty try awarded

to Agen pulled down a maul as Leicester's forwards rolled towards the line. Until then, Leicester had never threatened to score a try, being kept afloat in torrential rain by five penalties. John Lilley scored the first two before departing with a leg injury. Matt Jones got the others and the conversion as Leicester hauled themselves to some sort of respectability.

But by then Agen, immeasurably superior in defence with some delightful touches from Olivier Campan and Jean-Charles Cistacq,

sport

RUGBY LEAGUE: Whole community lifted as St Helens become champions of inaugural Super League in convincing fashion

Saints feast after ending Wigan's reign

DAVE HADFIELD

St Helen's
Warrington

14

The Stones Super League Championship has one thing in common with the plain old Championship that preceded it. It is won by the best team in the land and St Helen's did so yesterday in a manner that underlines the fact that, after Wigan's long dominance, that is precisely what they have become.

It would not have been in Saints' nature of traditions to grind out a narrow win to take the title. Instead they swept aside a Warrington team whose main contribution to proceedings came when their football manager, Alex Murphy, led the guard of honour of the last double-winning Saints of 1966 that welcomed their successors back on to the pitch to receive the trophy.

That set Saints' achievement in its context. Their last Championship was in 1975 and their last double came before England won the World Cup.

"I told the players that they have made history today," said their coach, Shaun McRae, who walked quietly out at the end of the queue for his turn on the rostrum. "This is the one we have worked for all season."

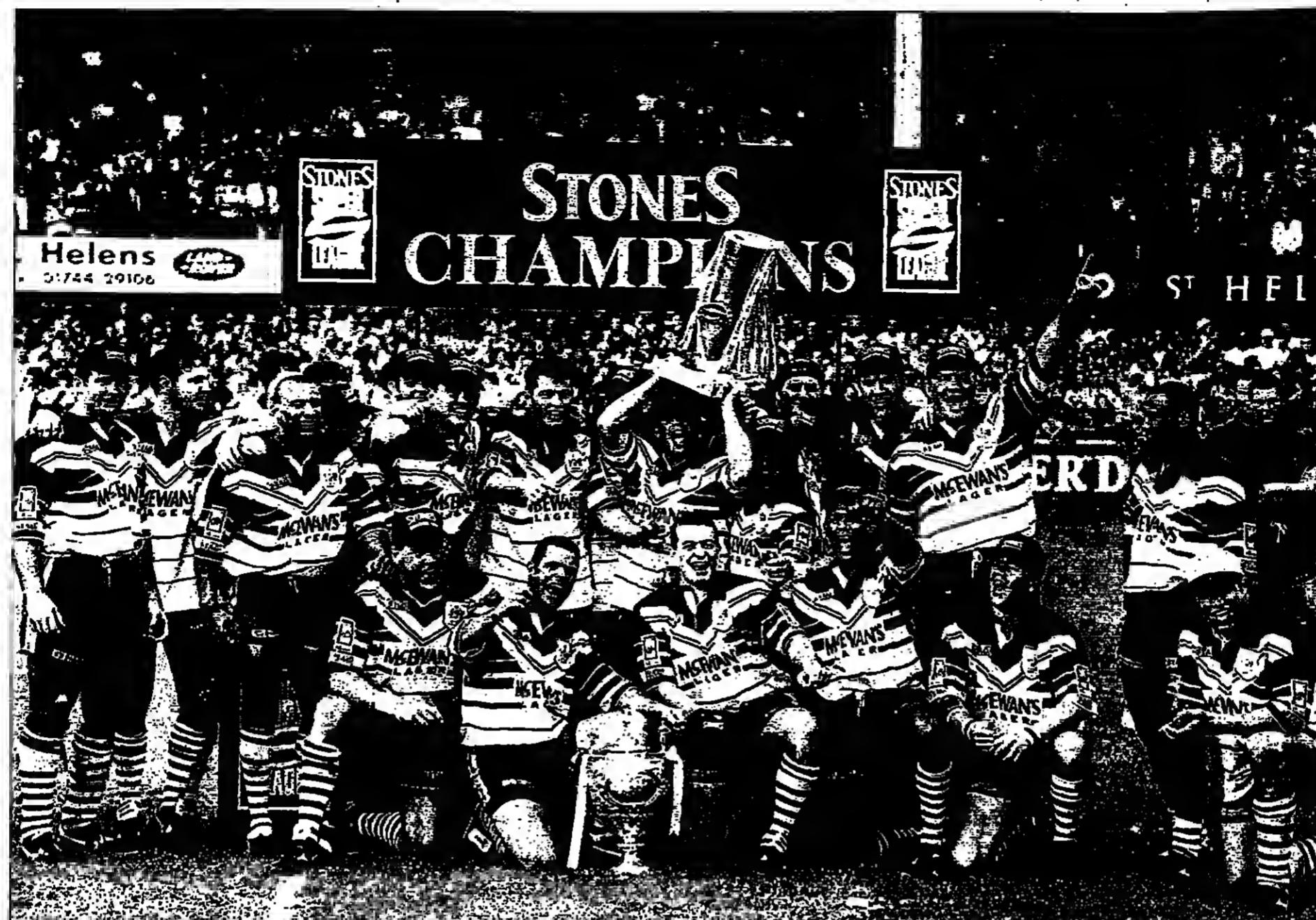
To take the spoils after so many years of frustration would have been hilfe enough for a season's best crowd of more than 18,000. To break Wigan's seven-year sequence in the process was almost an excess of happiness for spectators who chanted: "Hand it over, pie-eaters."

Their captain, Bobbie Goulding, who won two doubles with Wigan, does not believe that such an era of domination will ever be repeated.

"I don't think anyone will ever do that again, but we haven't finished yet - we're still in the Premiership to play for."

Although Warrington have looked a fair better team than the one humiliated at Knowsley Road twice last season, and have the prospect of a top-four place to play for themselves, the signs were there from the very first minute that they were not destined to spoil Saints' party.

That was now long it took St



St Helens line up in celebration after their 66-14 defeat of Warrington at Knowsley Road yesterday clinched the Super League title

Photograph: Phil Cole/Allsport

Helen's to score the first of their 13 tries, Karle Hammond releasing Joey Hayes down the right. The young winger had the presence of mind when his way was blocked to kick high towards the Warrington sticks, where Tommy Martyn leapt above Mark Forster and Ian Rook to take the ball on his finger-tips and score.

Significantly, a similar chance for Warrington produced a disallowed try five minutes later, Richard Henare knocking the ball forward before Paul Hulme touched down.

Saints immediately made the most of their escape, Alan Hunt's break taking them to the other end of the field and long passes from Goulding and Chris Joynt opening the way for Anthony Sullivan.

Saints' back-line pyrotechnics barely failed to take the eye, but much of their success this season has also been due to the power and penetration of their forwards.

Apollo Perolini: surely the best prop in Britain, provided a perfect example, battering his way through a series of tackles to stretch a defence which could not regroup in

time when Martyn's pass sent Paul Newlove striding in. Warrington's only success in the first half came when Paul Sculthorpe chipped ahead, Steve Prescott failed to pick up the ball on the bounce and Forster kicked ahead twice to score.

It never threatened to interrupt Saints' flow, Newlove charging through again to establish the position and Joynt

and Keiron Cunningham linking to send in Hunt.

Newlove is playing with pain-killing injections in his foot, but all the pain yesterday was inflicted by him. It was not so much a question of whether Saints would score again, but how; in the event, they did so through Newlove scooping up Martyn's pass.

Warrington should have had

one other try, Henare going

over the line after splendid

approach work from Kelly

Shefford and Ta Kohe-Love,

but Sullivan demonstrated

Saints' ferocious enthusiasm

by chasing back and clattering

him over before he could

ground the ball.

There were no such errors

from Saints as they claimed their sixth try three minutes before

half-time, thanks to Goulding's

precise cross-kick and Mar-

tin's slipped pass to Sullivan.

Saints continued in this care-

free mode in the second half.

Hunt, Derek McVey and Sulli-

van all going through increasingly token Warrington resistance.

Henare did get over in the

corner for the visitors, but the

game was already far down the

road of too many this season,

with one defence virtually ceas-

ing to operate.

Worse than that, Warrington

presented Hunt and Goulding

with further tries from farcical

interceptions. Mataki Mafi

managed another little gesture

for a club which is kidding itself

if it honestly believes it can field

a better team without Iestyn

Harris, but Hayes and Adam

Fogerty completed the rout.

Having completed the Cup

and League double, Saints now

start their bid for a treble with

a Premiership semi-final against

the London Broncos, secured in

fourth place by Warrington's de-

feat, next Sunday. London have

to hope that this week's party-

ing will take its toll - nothing

else seems likely to stop Saints

in this mood.

That mood extends far be-

yond the team and into the town

itself. "This is a great example

of how sport can lift a commu-

nity," Saints' chief executive,

David Howes, said. "This is a

town that has suffered eco-

nominally, and this is its biggest

shot in its arm for decades."

McRae, surely on his way to

being offered the freedom of the

place, admitted that he had not

realised how much it meant to

the town until the morning of

the match. "I went out for a

paper and I was being stopped

all the time. I was even stopped

by a police car. I thought I was

in strife for a moment, but they

only wanted an autograph," he

said.

McRae had undeniably put

his mark on this season, already

on a roll of significant departures

for the game of Rugby League.

If the overall success of Super

League is still a matter for

debate, in St Helens the change

has all been for the better.

St Helens: Hayes, Hunt, Newlove,

Sullivan, Morgan, Goulding, Persini, Cun-

ningham, Fogerty, Joynt, Morley, Hammond,

Shefford, Hunt, Rook, Mull, Finlay, Dene, Fawkes,

Warrington: Kropf, Forster, Kohe-Love, Roper, Henare, Shefford, Swann, Jones, Carson, Chivers, Hulme, Culkin, Cunningham, Sub-

stitutes: Rook, Mull, Fawkes, Dene, Daines,

Referee: O Campbell (Widnes).

Downpour keeps Yorkshire at bay

MIKE CAREY

reports from Headingley, Lancashire 323 and 231-7
Yorkshire 529-8
Match drawn

Anyone who had watched the three previous days might have guessed that the weather, rather than Lancashire, would deny Yorkshire victory in the Roses match yesterday, and so it proved.

Play could not begin until

2.55pm, and although Darren Gough raised Yorkshire's expectations with two wickets with successive deliveries, a deluge after tea ended the proceedings when Lancashire were 25 ahead with three wickets left.

The lengthy delay might have persuaded any watching Lancastrians that their side, who had performed so indifferently for much of the match, might at last summon up enough fibre and resilience to get through the scheduled remaining 28 overs, plus the final hour.

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Stich in form as Maleeva departs

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from New York

The United States Open was able to set aside all the rows over seedings and torn-up draw sheets when tennis broke out yesterday. It was good to see people hitting shots instead of calling them.

Michael Stich, who would have been among the seeds had not the US Tennis Association been reminded of the Grand Slam rules, advanced to the second round after a difficult match against Tommy Haas, an 18-year-old German compatriot.

Haas, a qualifier ranked No 237 in the world, made an impressive start to his Grand Slam career. He led 2-0 in the fourth set, only for Stich to recover his form, forget a serve shoulder, and win 6-3, 6-1, 7-5.

Only a fortnight ago, Haas reached the quarter-finals of his first professional tournament, having been given a wild card for the ATP Tour event in Indianapolis. He lost to the host - Pete Sampras.

Born in Munich, Haas is based at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida. "I believe Tommy has the potential to be as good as, or better than, any player ever to come out of the academy - and that includes Andre Agassi," Bollettieri said.

Stich, the runner-up to Agassi here in 1994 and a finalist at this year's French Open, has lost in the opening round of Grand Slam championships on six occasions. Haas saw that his opponent was vulnerable, but experience told at the finish.

The first seed to fall was in the women's singles, Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva, No 12, losing to the 16th-ranked Aleksandra Olzsa, of Poland, 6-4, 6-4. Martina Hingis opened proceedings on the Stadium Court, defeating Angeles Montolo, of Spain, 6-1, 6-0 in a hour.

Militancy seems to be the territory here at Flushing Meadows, which experienced many a chill from the Cold War during its time as the temporary headquarters of the United Nations. That was three decades before the serious business of international tennis took hold of the Cup winners and the League champions was started in 1983 that the Cup winners had won.

George Weah missed a good opportunity for Milan in the first half, but otherwise looked a little rusty. Roberto Baggio did not play due to an injury and Edgar Davids, Milan's new signing, came on in the second half as substitute but made little impact.

In Portugal, Porto, the champions kicked off the season with a disappointing 2-2 home draw against Benfica and were lucky to get a late equaliser.

Porto, who are aiming for



Matt Le Tissier relaxes at training yesterday Photograph: Steve Bardens/Mark Leech

Batistuta's birthday gift

Gabriel Batistuta gave Fiorentina the perfect 70th birthday present on Sunday with two goals that gave the Italian Cup winners a 2-1 victory over Milan, the A.C. Champions, in the Super Cup.

Marcel Desailly fouled Batistuta, who scored from the free-kick with a shot from 30 yards out which curled over the defence and dipped in under the bar. It was just reward for Fiorentina, who looked by far the more impressive team.

Scudati, who mounted skilful counter-attacks throughout the game, scored their first goal in the 16th minute, when the unmarked Chiquinho Conde squeezed a shot past Porto's new goalkeeper, Andrzej Wozniak. Conde scored his second goal in the 70th minute.

Benfica were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Braga, despite the visitors being reduced to 10 men in the 54th minute after Rodrigo Carneiro was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Benfica dominated the game but their lack of a first-class striker was apparent through-

their third consecutive title this season, were 2-0 down until the 86th minute, when Mario Jardel scored with a header. The goal came after a string of wasted opportunities, including Domingos Oliveira missing a penalty in the 60th minute. He redeemed himself by scoring the equaliser just into extra time.

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Le Tissier has goals to achieve under Hoddle

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

FOOTBALL
Footballers usually get picked for England because they are playing well. Glenn Hoddle agreed after his first day of training at Bisam Abbey yesterday that was why Andy Hinchcliffe and Mark Draper had been summoned to bolster his injury-hit squad. "The timing was right," said the new coach.

Then in walks Matt Le Tissier to blurtly admit: "I thought I would have to play better than I am to get back." His selection for the squad to travel to Moldova at the weekend is a triumph of faith over form. Le Tissier is an outstanding player playing badly. The problem is, he is well aware of this and it is not helping him play any better. Hoddle's task this week is to restore Le Tissier's self-belief.

"I suppose I am not the first person to be called up when not at the top of his form," Le Tissier said. "A different manager might not have picked me. Now it is up to me to prove myself. I hope I take my chance better this time. It is 18 months since I was last involved and it feels like a long time."

"I am not low on confidence but it is not as high as it was two years ago. Players like me thrive on scoring goals and creating chances, and it does not feel good knowing I only scraped into double figures last season."

"I have got frustrated with myself. It is difficult because we [Southampton] have not been getting much possession so, when

I get the ball, I try to do something different all the time, try to create something, because I don't know when I'll get it back."

It was put to Le Tissier that it might have been different had his audacious first-minute chip against Chelsea in Southampton's opening game gone in instead of hitting the bar. "I've thought that to myself quite a few times," he said, before adding: "It would have helped if that hadn't been the only contribution I made in the game." Le Tissier was then asked if he was aware of how big the debate is about him playing for England. "Yes, and it is a pain in the arse," he said.

Hoddle's appointment has reopened a debate that appeared to have been won by Terry Venables. Venables had been criticised for dropping Le Tissier after the abortive match in Dublin but, as Le Tissier's form dipped and England's fortunes rose, the critics fell silent. "I never had a cross word with Terry," Le Tissier

said. "I read this weekend that

he said I was not suited to his style of play; if that's the case that is up to him. I always believed if I began playing better I would get another chance but I did not deserve to be picked on my farm last season."

"I watched the European Championship. I'd been able to prepare myself. I knew I was not going to be involved from a long way out - it was not as if I had been to Hong Kong and then been left out. I was off the edge of my seat when England scored, like any Englishman should have been."

Hoddle's biggest problem may be where to play Le Tissier. Even the player himself is not sure. "I can score goals, but I can create goals too. It would be easier if it was only very good at one of them. A lot of internationals now play with one forward up and one playing slightly behind, and most of my managers have tended to play

me in that deeper position. But there are a lot of players here who come into that category."

The main two are Teddy Sheringham and Nick Barmby, and both have started the season in form and neither are injured - which is more than can be said for several of Hoddle's squad. There are six doubtfuls in add Darren Anderton, who pulled out last week. David Batty (ankle), Les Ferdinand (toe infection) and Paul Gascoigne (Achilles) are expected to be fit enough to travel but Steve Howey, Steve McMullan and Robbie Fowler will probably go back to their clubs.

The first four had a light warm-up yesterday while the latter two were not due until last night. They would need treatment during their time with England but it was worth it because it would otherwise be another five weeks before he involved them, Hoddle said. With that in mind, Graeme Le Saux has also joined the squad. Though far from being fit, Hoddle felt it would "give him a lift" to be included.

Hoddle was also unrepentant about picking David Beckham - it has been suggested that Manchester United would rather his call-up had been delayed. "I've spoken to Alex Ferguson and his main concern is whether Beckham is ready to deal with things off the pitch," Hoddle said. "I agree with that up to a point but if you have talent you have to play with the best. A lot of players have been capped at 21 [including Hoddle]. Handling things off the pitch is part of being a footballer - by being here he can see how Alan Shearer handles the pressure. It can be a big plus."

Hopes for Hendry

Craig Brown is confident that

the Blackburn striker Colin Hendry will be fit for Scotland's opening World Cup qualifying tie in Austria on Saturday. Hendry shrugged off the discomfort of a groin injury to play in his club's 2-2 draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

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